

# REVIEW

2014 IN REVIEW



“the people demand compassion”

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# Seeds of hope in a year of conflict...

This review tells the story of our impact during a year which was punctuated by war and high tensions in Israel. And yet despite the harsh and painful context, the story it tells is one of hope.



## CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Clive Sheldon QC

This review tells the story of our impact during a year which was punctuated by war and high tensions in Israel.

And yet despite the harsh and painful context, the story it tells is one of hope. From grassroots initiatives of courageous compassion, to institutional successes reaped from years of dedicated campaigning for justice, we see a glimpse of the impact of the NIF family of activists in moments of crisis and cumulatively, over time. By sharing with you some snapshots of these achievements, alongside a presentation of our

strategic plan moving forward, we hope to convey the way in which the individual stories presented here are part of a grander story: a story of a vision for Israeli society which is just, free and truly shared by all its citizens, as its founders envisaged. This story is a story of partnership: a partnership between dedicated and inspiring Israelis from all corners of Israeli society, together with the Diaspora communities around the world who share in their vision for Israel and seek to play their part in achieving it.

I began my journey as Chair of NIF this year, in 2015, with a great energy and enthusiasm to build on the excellent work of my predecessor, Nicholas Saphir, in galvanising the UK's role in this unique NIF partnership. NIF is the lead organisation enabling communities and individuals in the UK to actively engage with Israelis working for positive change in the interlocking areas of democracy, social justice, human rights and shared society in Israel. This review presents the great strides made in the UK's engagement with the field in 2014, and I look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead to deepen our engagement and expand our commitment.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW

Adam Ognall

The rapidly-changing circumstances in Israel continuously shape the context in which we work. The past year began on a note of modest

hope with direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations underway. Barely half a year later the peace talks had collapsed, and the ensuing, escalating chain of violent events led up to the 50-day Operation Protective Edge. At the end of the year, having barely recovered from the summer's trauma, the country was in the throes of a passionate election campaign. The war itself, and related events around it, constituted a dark period for

Israel. The war had a devastatingly high civilian casualty cost in Gaza, and unprecedented numbers of Israelis were directly vulnerable to rocket fire. Within this context, the high tensions between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel and the stifling of dissenting voices were a source of grave concern.

And yet despite the huge challenges, champions of tolerance, human rights and a shared society made their voices heard in 2014: before, during and after the war.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING our partnership with you TO GROW THE SEEDS OF HOPE

NIF, Shatil and our family of civil society organisations and activists were at the forefront of courageous initiatives to combat racism and incitement in 2014. And we were not alone. Israel's President Reuven Rivlin made clear in 2014 that combating racism was his number one priority, pledging to cure Israel of what he considered to be an "epidemic" of racism. Our network of human rights



organisations also secured a slew of legal victories which are already having a direct impact on the lives of vulnerable or marginalised groups. And as 2014 drew to a close, we witnessed an election campaign in which the parties were challenged to respond to the public's demands to place front and centre issues of social justice.

So, the story of this review, as emphasised by Clive, is a story of hope. We highlight the breadth of NIF's

impact through our snapshot of key achievements, provide an in-depth focus on amazing stories of courage and compassion through the summer conflict, share the success of the UK community's engagement with NIF activism, and present our new strategic direction moving forward.

And as we do so, we look forward to continuing our partnership with you to grow the seeds of hope planted by the brave Israeli groups and individuals profiled in these pages and beyond.

## OUR IMPACT

FUNDS RAISED:

£1,520,856

DIRECT PROJECT GRANTS TO ISRAEL:

£1,260,922

EVENTS & SPEAKER ENGAGEMENTS IN THE UK:

60

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH ACTIVITIES:

3,000

TWITTER FOLLOWERS INCREASED BY:

98%

# Our key achievements in 2014

2014 was an important year for NIF, with numerous landmark victories. Whether advocating for policy change, defending rights through the courts or empowering communities through grassroots programmes, this year NIF contributed to essential change on the ground in Israel. Here are some snapshots of our achievements:



UNRECOGNISED VILLAGE SAVED FROM DEMOLITION: 350 BEDOUIN FAMILIES REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES, FOLLOWING AN 8-YEAR STRUGGLE BY ADALAH TO CANCEL DEMOLITION ORDERS



STATE SALARIES FOR NON-ORTHODOX RABBIS: GOVERNMENT PAID SALARIES OF REFORM RABBIS FOR THE FIRST TIME, DUE TO CAMPAIGNING BY ISRAELI RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTRE (IRAC)



ENSURING FOOD SECURITY DURING THE WAR: FOOD SECURITY NGO BE'ER SOVA FED HUNDREDS IN THE SOUTH DURING THE WAR WITH A FREE RESTAURANT AND DELIVERIES TO THOSE AFRAID TO LEAVE HOME



WOMEN SHOULD BE SEEN AND HEARD: ULTRA-ORTHODOX RADIO STATION KOL BARAMA CAN NO LONGER EXCLUDE WOMEN FROM BROADCASTS, THANKS TO IRAC'S LEGAL CAMPAIGN



BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAPS: ALUMNA OF A SHATIL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FORMED THE NORTHERN HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK TO BRIDGE HEALTHCARE GAPS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND CENTRE OF ISRAEL



MAJOR ARAB-JEWISH FESTIVAL LAUNCHED: MORE THAN 1,000 ARABS AND JEWS CELEBRATED EACH OTHER'S CULTURES AND SHARED DIFFICULT MEMORIES AT THE HAIFA STORIES FESTIVAL PRODUCED BY SHATIL AND HAIFA'S ARAB-JEWISH CENTRE, BET HAGEFEN



OUT WITH RACISM: NIF GRANTEE **TEBEKA** SECURED COMPENSATION FOR TWO ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELI WOMEN WHO WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO A NIGHTCLUB



CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTED: A MULTI-YEAR EFFORT BY **HOTLINE FOR REFUGEES & MIGRANTS** AND **ISRAELI CHILDREN** WON THE RIGHT FOR 221 CHILDREN TO STAY IN ISRAEL, THE ONLY HOME THEY'VE EVER KNOWN



NEGEV COUNCIL LAUNCHED: **SHATIL** PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BRINGING TOGETHER MAYORS WITH BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO WORK FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE NEGEV



COMPENSATION FOR "PRICE TAG" VICTIMS: NEW LEGISLATION ENTITLES ARAB ISRAELIS TO COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY DAMAGED IN A "PRICE TAG" ATTACK, FOLLOWING A CAMPAIGN LED BY THE **COALITION AGAINST RACISM**



EQUAL REPRESENTATION: SUPREME COURT ORDER MANDATES FAIR REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AND ARABS ON THE ISRAEL LAND AUTHORITY COUNCIL, FOLLOWING A PETITION BY **ACRI** AND **ITACH-MAKI** (WOMEN LAWYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE)



COURT VICTORY FOR AFRICAN REFUGEES: 180 ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE RELEASED FROM MONTHS AND EVEN YEARS OF DETENTION, IN A LANDMARK LEGAL VICTORY FOR **HOTLINE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS** AND 4 OTHER NIF GRANTEEES



HOUSING POLICY PROGRESS: 25% OF UNITS IN ALL MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS WILL NOW BE AFFORDABLE, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE **COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

# Stories of courage and compassion during Operation Protective Edge

The summer's military operation required quick mobilisation to respond to urgent needs which arose either directly or indirectly as a result of the crisis. We were proud to provide additional support to many brave organisations which stepped forward to assist vulnerable populations in the South, built bridges between Arab and Jewish citizens amongst simmering tensions, or fought for freedom of speech and expression. Such groups are the beating heart of the New Israel Fund family, their stories are our greatest source of hope and inspiration. Here are just three of them:



Coalition Tag Meir ("Light Tag") organises a delegation of Jewish Israelis to pay a condolence visit to the Abu Khdeir family following the murder of Mohammed Abu Khdeir in a so called "price tag" attack by Jewish extremists

## STORY 1 SUPPORTING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTH

Last summer, the Alwaj family from Jarabeh, an unrecognized Bedouin village near Dimona, didn't hear the Dimona siren wailing as their village in the wadi is insulated from sound. The father of the family, Uda, was killed when his house was

hit with direct rocket fire. 110,000 people live in over 40 unrecognized villages in the Negev. None of them had loudspeakers for sirens, shelters or Iron Domes sent to protect them during Operation Protective Edge. Shatil organised community leaders of the **Unrecognised Villages Council** to submit their demands to authorities, while flagship grantee **ACRI** appealed to the Supreme Court on the matter. "Shatil's role was to keep the issue in the headlines" says Sultan Abu Obaid, Director of Shatil's Beer Sheva office. In total, we made over 30 emergency grants to support residents of marginalised communities in the South, including the distribution of food packages and the training of volunteers to provide first-aid, counseling and practical advice, which was especially important for Russian-speaking and Bedouin communities.

## STORY 2 WORKING FOR TOLERANCE AND COMPASSION AMIDST MOUNTING TENSIONS

Throughout the summer, the NIF supported **Tag Meir** (Light Tag) Forum truly lived up to its namesake as a light in a time of darkness. Following the brutal murder of Mohammed Abu Khdeir, an Arab teenager who was burned to death by a Jewish mob seeking revenge for the murder of three Jewish teenagers, the Tag Meir coalition took busloads of hundreds of concerned Israelis to pay a condolence call to the family. Rabbi Ron Kronish, a steering committee member of Tag Meir, commented:



Demonstrators hold up signs stating "there is no difference between blood and blood", and "and you shall love the stranger" at a demonstration calling for tolerance and calm as tensions mounted in the run up to Operation Protective Edge

"We went... as an act of religious obligation and humanistic solidarity. Our visit was warmly received by our Palestinian neighbours who were visibly moved by our empathetic act of good will." As the war raged, Tag Meir visited the hospital beds of Jewish and Arab victims of hate crimes, ran ad-hoc peace rallies and tolerance spreading activities across the country. Through the war and in its aftermath, NIF supported these and many other shared society initiatives to address the enormous tensions and distrust between Jewish and Arab Israelis that the war exposed.



Children of unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev were particularly vulnerable during Operation Protective Edge

## STORY 3 DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In times of conflict, Israel's human rights community plays a critical role in sustaining Israeli democracy. Emotions understandably run very high during war, when people and their loved ones may be directly vulnerable to attack. Yet in a democracy, even at such painful times, freedom of speech must remain paramount. During Operation Protective Edge, freedom of speech became a casualty of the war. Police arrested some 1,500 demonstrators; city mayors attempted to prevent public protests; violent thugs beat protesters; universities limited the freedom of speech of students and teachers; Arab employees were fired

as a result of statements made about the conflict; and social media users attempted to "police" online discourse and sanction those whose comments deviated from the national consensus. NIF supported human rights NGOs who worked tirelessly during the war to defend freedom of speech – providing legal counsel in individual cases, leading social media campaigns on the issue, and demanding action from the authorities on unlawful dismissals of staff. Gadeer Nicola, a lawyer from NIF grantee **Workers Hotline**, was at the forefront of this work. "We were approached by dozens of Palestinian Israeli workers who were fired because of things they said on Facebook" Nicola explains. "At least 25 Facebook pages were set up where people copied statuses of Palestinian Israelis alongside their photos and places of work, requesting that the general public call on their employers to fire them... We need to guarantee freedom of expression. It's the most basic right citizens have in a democratic state. Employers shouldn't be able to punish workers because of their political views, as is clearly spelled out by Israeli law."

# Engaging the UK community

This year has been a successful one for NIF in the UK, and with your support and involvement we have managed to break records and make significant strides in engaging the UK community with today's issues in Israel. Here are some highlights of our achievements:

# 1

## Human Rights Award Dinner

This year we celebrated the voices of Israel, of which our three brilliant winners were an excellent representation: Yifat Biton (**Tmura: the Israeli Anti-Discrimination Centre**), Yonathan Shacham (**Israeli Children: rights of children of migrant workers**) and Leah Shakdiel (an Orthodox feminist and peace activist). With 350 people in attendance and £250,000 raised, the evening was an enormous success.



# 2

## Digital Engagement

With a near-doubling of our Twitter followers, and a 40% increase of support on Facebook, 2014 was an important year for us on social media. We ran two online "Vote for Change" competitions, giving people the opportunity to engage with grassroots organisations in Israel, and revamped the project in the autumn with a new text-giving model. The launch of our new website and newsletter also heightened engagement.



# 3

## Educational Events

Our many events, reaching around 3,000 people, addressed topics as diverse as Bedouin issues, the role of women in Modern Orthodoxy, and social justice through a Jewish lens, bringing Israel's pressing issues to a UK audience. Other highlights included a speaker tour from new NIF President Talia Sasson, and a screening of the award-winning film *Gett* at the **Jewish Film Festival** in partnership with the **Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance**.



Here's how you can get involved now:

DONATE NOW

ENGAGE WITH THE ISSUES AT OUR EVENTS

JOIN OR CREATE A GIVING CIRCLE

VISIT OUR PROJECTS IN ISRAEL

HOST AN EVENT OR TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

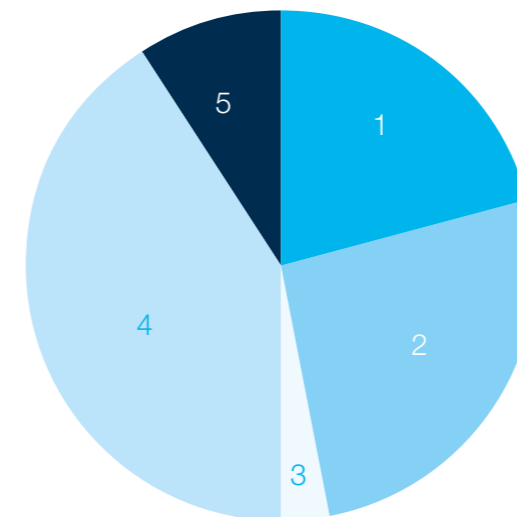
CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

# 4

## Israel Project Grants

Expenditure 2014 by theme (Total £1,260,922)

- 1 Shatil 21%
- 2 Civil & Human Rights 26%
- 3 Religious Pluralism & Tolerance 3%
- 4 Social & Economic Justice 41%
- 5 Environment 9%



# 5

## Financial Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2014	Total 2013
Contributions	516,192	1,004,664	1,520,856	1,652,258
Investment Income	586	—	586	349
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>516,778</b>	<b>1,004,664</b>	<b>1,521,442</b>	<b>1,652,607</b>
<b>Israel Project Grants</b>	<b>152,918</b>	<b>1,108,004</b>	<b>1,260,922</b>	<b>929,686</b>
UK Education				
Programme Expenditure	289,862	6,465	296,327	266,636
Costs of Generating Funds	121,794	—	121,794	117,138
Governance Costs	9,034	—	9,034	9,329
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>573,608</b>	<b>1,114,469</b>	<b>1,688,077</b>	<b>1,322,789</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>-56,830</b>	<b>-109,832</b>	<b>-166,635</b>	<b>329,818</b>

Additional contributions in the amount of £25,600 was received by NIF US directly from UK donors. The full audited reports and accounts and a full list of our grantees are available to view on our website.

# Introducing our new strategy in Israel

In the 35 years since its founding, the New Israel Fund has played a critical role in developing and seed-funding Israeli civil society organisations that have made a significant impact on the lives of all Israelis. From the first rape crisis centres to the groups that succeeded in banning torture in civilian interrogations, **the NIF family has always worked on the cutting edge of social change.**

Today Israel is at a crossroads. Its identity as a Jewish and democratic state as envisioned by its founders is increasingly under threat, with anti-democratic rhetoric and policy proposals coming from the highest levels and a rise in racism and ethnic tensions being felt on the ground. At the same time, however, Israelis have taken to the streets en masse to demand social justice

and greater civil liberties, and marginalised communities are increasingly asserting their rights and their identities. So in a sense our greatest challenge is also our greatest opportunity: **how to build power for change at this juncture when so many of our core values are under threat, whilst the potential constituencies for change are in fact growing?**

NIF has developed a three-pronged approach to meet this challenge and maximise the opportunity. Following an extensive strategic thinking process, we have forged new partnerships - and augmented existing ones - which **build UP** to increase our legitimacy, **reach OUT** to expand our communities of engagement and **focus IN** to enhance our impact.

## BUILDING UP

We are **building up** infrastructure for the progressive community in Israel, by investing in think and do tanks which make the case for our core values and work, and clarify their urgency and relevance to all Israelis:

↑ by **articulating a broadly progressive vision and policy** for Israel's future and generating support for this vision through campaigns and the media

↑ by **reclaiming National Security** and bringing compelling security arguments to advance democracy and peacemaking

## REACHING OUT

We are **reaching out** to new constituencies to expand the base of support for progressive values, through strategic partnerships and programmes which work broadly at the grassroots level:

→ to **build bridges** with constituencies and communities that share some core values

→ to **enhance voices for tolerance and social justice** in Mizrahi communities

→ to **promote progressive voices** in the local municipal arena

We are **focusing in** on key, interlocking objectives within our core grantmaking areas, to realign our resource distribution for greater impact:



# New Israel Fund

Progress. Together.

## NIF continues to be a leading force advancing a more tolerant, just and democratic Israel.

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### ABOUT US

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New Israel Fund (NIF) is the leading organisation advancing democracy and equality for all Israelis, based on the vision of Israel's founders. Widely credited with building Israeli progressive civil society, we have provided over \$250 million to more than 850 organisations since our inception in 1979.

We are more than a funder: NIF is at philanthropy's cutting edge thanks in large part to our action arm Shatil, the New Israel Fund Initiative for Social Change.

Today, NIF builds coalitions, is a leading advocate for democratic values, empowers activists and often takes the initiative in setting the public agenda.

NIF is based on a simple idea: individuals who care about Israel and believe in progressive values can join together to work for an Israel in which everyone is treated with dignity, for an Israel in which a shared society can truly take root, for an Israel in which Jewish life is inclusive in every respect.

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### UK BOARD MEMBERS

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### GET IN TOUCH

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