



THERE IS ANOTHER WAY:

THE JOINT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN YOM HAZIKARON CEREMONY

Yom HaZikaron is Israel's national Memorial Day for its fallen soldiers and victims of terror. It is marked on the eve of Israel's **Independence Day**, suggesting an explicit link between the **sacrifice** made by those we mourn and the very **existence of the State of Israel**. **Combatants for Peace (CFP)** and the **Parents Circle Families Forum (PCFF)** have been hosting a ceremony which **mourns the loss of all those who fell in the context of the conflict** – both Israelis and Palestinians – for the past decade.

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY: BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE?

The CFP & PCFF ceremony was initiated by **Buma Inbar** whose son Yotam was killed in Lebanon.

The ceremony is distinctive in moving away from traditional representations of fallen soldiers as

SACRIFICING their lives for the State of Israel, towards an understanding of **all who die in the context of the conflict as VICTIMS**.



"People say how can it be possible that someone who has experienced war to this extent is working for peace. And I say, how is it possible that someone who has experienced war in this way wouldn't work for peace? My place is here, in this ceremony."

— **Yaela Ra'anan**, bereaved sister & mother of combat soldiers, at the 2015 ceremony

A CONTENTIOUS CEREMONY?

The ceremony has received a lot of criticism over the years for turning Yom HaZikaron, a specifically Israeli day of mourning, into a **day shared with Palestinians**. Criticisms levelled include accusations that the ceremony is a **"provocation which degrades Yom HaZikaron and the memory of the fallen."**

- 2013:** The Defense Ministry imposed (and later retracted) a **ban on West Bank Palestinians entering Israel** to attend the event
- 2015:** **107 bereaved families** petitioned Defense Minister Ya'alon to prevent the ceremony from taking place
- 2016:** Concerns for this year's ceremony grew when the **Civil Administration** announced it would **revoke entry permits for Palestinian peace activists**

A GROWING CEREMONY

2006: 200 people attended



2015: 2,500 people attended



A CEREMONY WITH A ROLE TO PLAY



"[The Memorial Day Ceremony offers] a third narrative that doesn't just talk for one side. We are both caught in the trap of this conflict and we both have to find a way out ... I don't want to act out of victimhood. I want us, Palestinians and Israelis, to take responsibility for our actions."

— **Sulaimain Khatib**, Palestinian Director of Combatants for Peace



"Especially this year, when we can see that hatred and violence are getting higher and higher ... [the Memorial Day ceremony] brings a lot of hope to many people to try and act and do something together in order to change our lives here."

— **Maya Katz**, Co-ordinator of the Memorial Day ceremony

[Click here to live stream the alternative Yom HaZikaron Ceremony on Tuesday 10 May at 7pm](#)