



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



A word from Mehra Rimer, Co-founder and Chair

B8 of Hope has grown rapidly since its creation in 2016, and through this development we have become an umbrella and incubator of an increasing number of Israeli and Palestinian grassroots initiatives. The groups we work with are involved in creating dialogue, building bridges, and encouraging nonviolence. We are involved in raising funds, investing time and energy, and nurturing these initiatives so they can blossom.

B8 of Hope would like to take this opportunity to thank our pool of initiatives on the ground for their friendship and trust in us, our donors in Switzerland and Europe for their generous support, and last but not least our team of volunteers who tirelessly work for us pro-bono throughout the year and makes our events not only possible but also successful.

In 2018, B8 of Hope brought visibility, networking opportunities, organizational guidance, and funds to a core group of six Israeli and Palestinian Civil Society organizations. Our initiatives include Judur/Shorashim/Roots, Women Wage Peace, Combatants for Peace, Taghyeer, The Karama Center, A Land for All: 2 States 1 Homeland and some smaller initiatives.

Today's governments and key international entities are offering less funding to these kinds of initiatives in the region. This is how our contributions generate real impacts. B8 of Hope funded projects on the ground in 2018 through the 2017 Gala as well as through other semi regular smaller fundraising occasions.

Although fundraising for projects on the ground is an important part of our work, creating visibility and offering advice on structure and governance is even more important. It is also essential for us to provide a network between organizations and create synergies in a variety of ways.



For example, we foster synergies among the initiatives we work with by supporting and encouraging interorganizational collaboration. It is our goal to increase the amount of participation between the initiatives we support.

Moreover, we want to encourage ourselves as an organization to collaborate with different NGOs and foundations in Switzerland, Europe, the US, and elsewhere around the world through collaborative philanthropy and support.

Finally, synergies among our supporters are essential to B8 of Hope. Thanks to our efforts in the cosmopolitan city of Geneva we have created a network of supporters made up of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Middle Easterners, and other citizens of countries from all over the world. In this situation we use synergy to mean united supporters and specifically the diasporic Jews and Arabs around the world who are interested in constructive “pro-solution” initiatives. The diverse groups of people who join our events leave with a sense of empowerment and partnership that will lead to positive change on the ground.

b8fully yours,

Mehra Rimer

About B8 of Hope

Despite living so close to each other, Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank exist in almost complete separation. Both sides have little knowledge of each other's lives and are too often raised to fear and hate each other.

In 2016, a group of eight friends in Geneva, hailing from diverse backgrounds – among them Jewish, Christian and Muslim – decided to found B8 of Hope (to be pronounced Beit, the Arabic and Hebrew word for home). They were all inspired by the work of Ali Abu Awwad, a non-violence activist dedicated to Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Ali Abu Awwad often says to his audience abroad : “Stop being pro-Israel or pro-Palestine. You are not helping by adding more fuel to the conflict. If you want to help, be pro-solution !”

OUR VISION

B8 of Hope promotes established grassroots initiatives led by Israeli and Palestinian civil society activists. The goal of these initiatives is to re-establish as far as possible individual links between Israeli and Palestinian people, to teach them to know and accept one another and to communicate through peaceful dialogue.

We believe that by supporting these initiatives of dialogue bridge-building and by uniting rather than dividing, we are creating the favorable conditions for a sustainable peace.

OUR MISSION

B8 of Hope serves as an umbrella organization that donates to constructive grassroots initiatives in Israel and Palestine. B8 of Hope :

- funds their activities on the ground
- gives them visibility by organizing public interventions at different venues and institutions
- creates networking opportunities
- offers the possibility of synergy on the ground between organizations and abroad between their supporters
- provides media coverage
- advises the initiatives on how to better structure and use their resources

Events and activities in 2018

February

B8 of Hope started 2018 with further screenings of “Disturbing the Peace” at Ecole Moser and Institut Florimont throughout the month. The message of this film and its producers is universal and could only benefit future generations in Switzerland and elsewhere: “At a time in our world when societies are becoming more polarized and painfully few people are speaking of nonviolent solutions to our conflicts, popular movements such as Combatants for Peace have the potential to capture the public’s imagination and shift the conversation from the inevitability of conflict, to the possibility and process of establishing lasting peace. Disturbing the Peace, a documentary on the movement Combatants for Peace, evokes universal themes relevant to us all and inspires us to become active participants in the creation of our world”.

After each screening, three B8 of Hope steering committee members and co-founders were present to answer student questions. These events gave us the opportunity to talk about our work as a Swiss-based association promoting grassroots initiatives in Israel and Palestine. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ecole Moser and to Institut Florimont for hosting us. In the future we hope to extend this experience to Geneva public schools.

Please contact us (info@B8ofHope.org) if you are interested in organizing a screening.

April

In April, Mehra Rimer, Chair of B8 of Hope, participated in the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, where she had networking opportunities with other philanthropic foundations and social entrepreneurs. This was an opportunity for the B8 of Hope chair to learn from more experienced NGOs on the ground in different countries and to make more connections with Israeli and Palestinian organizations present at the Forum.

May

In May, we hosted one of Combatants for Peace Israeli co-founders, Avner Wishnitzer, for a short and an informal visit that included meetings with our team and some of our supporters. Avner Wishnitzer told us that “Hope is like a candle. The current situation like a hurricane. We must do everything we can to keep the flame alive”. This visit was inspiring and has motivated us all to continue to pursue our mission of hope.

In May, we also hosted Ali Abu Awwad for some work sessions around his activities at his Palestinian Non-Violence Movement Taghyeer (Change) and the improvement of structures at the Karama Center.

July

In July, co-founder Mehra Rimer, spent the whole month on the ground checking on the projects we sponsor and exploring new possibilities for new initiatives our organization can support. The highlights of the trip include visiting the village of Jubbet Adh Dib to see how nonviolence activities like the greening of the village are developing, a gathering with Women Wage Peace under their tent in the Rose Garden (where WWP hosts many encounters) in Jerusalem near the Knesset, and the women’s photography workshop of Roots facilitated by Swiss photographer and activist Saskia Keely.

Mehra and her group of friends as well as supporters from Geneva were part of the first week of the trip. We also had exciting meetings with Combatants for Peace, 2 States 1 Homeland and had the opportunity to visit Hand in Hand School (a bilingual Hebrew Arabic Israeli school promoting coexistence and tolerance) and Inon Kalati from the Beit.

The Beit is a small local initiative in Jerusalem. Inon, its founder, organizes sessions where Israeli and Palestinian participants pick up cigarette butts and plastic waste from the streets. Their motto is “clean the home (referring to the holy land), clean the hate”.

In July, 17 year old Shiraz Rimer interned for B8 of Hope and shadowed her mother, our chair and co-founder Mehra. Shiraz launched her own blog <https://humansoftheholylan.com/> to tell the stories of ordinary Israelis and Palestinians and share what they love about the Holy Land.

We love to have young interns who take initiative to do creative work to support our purpose! One of our goals is creating a Youth Group among young students in universities in Geneva and around the world. We believe this will help us spread our message of tolerance and humanization through the voice of a new generation from different nationalities and backgrounds.

August

In August, we participated in a beautiful project initiated by the Lausanne, Switzerland based association Coexistences. Cooperation with other organizations involved in peace building is incredibly important to us. As we encourage synergies on the ground, we also believe pertinent synergies should also happen abroad.

The area of expertise for Coexistence is to organize stays for Israeli-Palestinian groups in Switzerland so that these groups can continue their bridge-building work away from the conflict and their usual routines, by immersing themselves in an intensive experience of being together in Switzerland (which would never be possible back home).

This summer Coexistence invited a Youth Group of an initiative we support called Roots to Switzerland to go through one of their programs. We covered the costs of the flights for the 16 Palestinians and Israeli teenagers.

At the end of the program, the teenagers and young adults told B8 of Hope and Coexistences members: “Before coming to Switzerland we were participants of a program, today we are friends. If each Palestinian and each Israeli had a friend from the other side, they will never look at things the same way.”

At the end of the month, Ali Abu Awwad and Riyadh Al-Halees from Taghyeer came for a visit to Switzerland for networking and interactions with B8 of Hope supporters. They also worked and shared with us the draft of the Palestinian non-violence declaration which was signed with more than 40 other Palestinian organizations who share the same values of non-violence.

October

In October, B8 of Hope organized a series of screenings at Ecole Internationale de Geneve (La Châtaigneraie and La Grande Boissière Campuses) and Ciné 17. We presented the documentary “Les Guerrières de la Paix,” (Warriors for Peace) a documentary produced and directed by the young and brilliant film director Hanna Assouline. The film features Women Wage Peace, and includes powerful interviews of amazing women from both sides of the conflict and who have joined or partnered with the movement. B8 of Hope also participated in the funding of this inspiring documentary. The screenings were in presence of Hanna and 2 protagonists: Lama Abuarquob and Noa Golan.

November

In November, co-founders Leila Hawa and Mehra Rimer gave a presentation at the Institut Le Rosey. The students they spoke to were reading a novel called *Une Bouteille dans la mer de Gaza* by Valérie Zenatti which is about an unlikely friendship between a Palestinian young boy and an Israeli young girl.

Later in November Mehra Rimer was invited as a guest speaker to the University of Tel-Aviv in a conference about Innovations in Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

December

As we moved towards the end of the year, the whole B8 team was busy getting ready for our gala in March!

The projects we sponsored from each initiative



(Roots Summer Camps) photo credit Bruce Shaffer

Judur/Shorashim/Roots

Roots is a unique network of local Palestinians and Israelis who have come to see each other as the partners they both need to end the conflict. Based on a mutual recognition of each people's connection to the Land, they are developing understanding and solidarity despite their ideological differences.

Roots fosters a grassroots movement of understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians. It offers places where people can take responsibility and challenge the assumptions their communities hold about each other as well as build trust and create new discourse around the conflict in their respective societies.

Through its projects and workshops (the list is long: youth programs, meetings between the two communities in different forms such as photography workshops, speaking tours abroad), Roots creates trust and partnership which are the societal foundations upon we need in order to build future political agreements.

In 2018, B8 of Hope chose to continue sponsoring Roots activities focused on children, teen-agers and young adults : the holiday camps, the pre-army academies visits and the Youth Group and the Young Adult Alumni program.

Summer holiday camps

Roots runs an annual summer camp for children ages 5-12. Since it started two summers ago 160 local children have attended. The camp is week-long experience of photography, crafts, cooking, playing with animals, and dance, providing a fun and carefree setting for positive interaction between Israeli and Palestinian children. 80 local children (6-11 years old) were included in this program.

Pre-army Academies

Roots brings its message to the Israeli pre-army academies and exposes these high school students who are about to do their military service to both the Palestinian and settlers' narratives. This exposure serves to build up their understanding of the people with whom they will be interacting during their service. For many of these young Israelis, it is their first encounters with Palestinians. Over 3,000 students have visited Karama in the framework of the pre-army academies program.

Youth Group and Young Adult Alumni Program

Meeting every other week, Roots youth group is composed of 20 local Israeli and Palestinian high school students and is organized and facilitated by Israeli and Palestinian university students and an advisor. Their meetings involve discussion groups, recreational activities, and day trips to heritage sites that are integral parts of the identities of their participants in order to explore the different narratives of the group's members. 40 youth alums of our programs from ages 19-21 were included in on-going events in 2018.

After one year or more in the Roots Youth program, the alumnis often want to keep seeing each other and ask Roots leadership how they can continue what they have started. This led to the creation of the Youngadult program. One must not forget there are not many places in Gush Etzion and the West Bank where people from both sides feel comfortable meeting with each other. Roots gives them that space at Karama.

<https://www.friendsofroots.net/>

Taghyeer

Taghyeer (Change) is a Palestinian civil society movement started in 2016 by Ali Abu Awwad, engaging Palestinians to be the “captains” of their humanity and channel their anger, rather than being controlled by it, to both build a better society for themselves and achieve Palestinian national goals through non-violence. This change would also have a profoundly positive impact on Israeli opinion.

B8 of Hope has given structural advice to Taghyeer and helped them build their team. We were also involved as Taghyeer drafted a Palestinian Non-violence Charter and launched discussions with over 40 civil society Palestinian organizations and local municipalities. The Charter was extremely well-received and should be finalized by the summer of 2019.

Taghyeer pursued its local community initiatives. Some of these include supporting the Jubbet Adh Dib women's committee in various projects linked to greening, infrastructure, education in the village, and supporting and planting a garden of peace at Surrura in the South Hebron Hills. Taghyeer also has been active in building its network of supporters and has established a national women's group as well as regional chapters across the West Bank.



Photo Credit Taghyeer

Karama Center

Karama is a Palestinian peace center, built on a small piece of land belonging to a family of peace builders, the amazing Abu Awwad family. Karama is located in an agricultural region, near Gush Etsion and Bethlehem, in the Palestinian Authority Territories (Area C): a 20-minute drive from both Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The place is a true Oasis of Peace hosting inspiring workshops of different peace organizations, and mainly the activities of Roots.

B8 of Hope is helping improve the infrastructures and buildings of Karama. The ambition is to turn it into a real incubator for local peace organizations. It is ideally geographically located in Area C where both Israelis and Palestinians can meet.

40,000 people visited Karama Center in 2018.





Women Wage Peace

Women Wage Peace counts among its thousands of members women from the political right, center, and left, Jewish and Arab, religious and secular – all of them united in their demand for a political agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. B8 of Hope supported WWP in 3 different ways this year:

Guerrières de la Paix (Warriors for Peace) by Hanna Assouline

B8 of Hope partly funded this powerful documentary featuring Women Wage Peace. The film has become a tool to spread awareness and inspiration.

Politics of Acquaintance meetings

During the summer 2018, Women Wage Peace organized several of these meetings throughout Israel. Their purpose is to create another language, a language based on sincere curiosity that strives to reveal what all Israelis share and what is possible. The participants are Israeli women from all walks of life, including Arab Israelis. Some meetings are joined by Palestinian partners from the West Bank.

Women Wage Peace Congress and Youth Hackathon

Women Wage Peace did not organize a march this year but rather an international congress at Tel-Aviv University in November. The theme was: “Removing barriers to Middle East peace.” In this Congress, the young audience, together with international and Israeli experts in the field, created new knowledge and strategies for dismantling barriers to peace in the Middle East. The target audience for this congress were young minds, age 20-40.

The Youth 24 hour Hackathon was the flagship event of the congress. 50 young Israelis – Jews and Arabs - and Palestinians (men and women) participated in this singular event.

Accompanied by experts in the fields of conflict resolution, psychology, history, and more, these young participants, divided into working groups, strove to define the obstacles to peace and offer new strategies toward removing these obstacles. At the end of the 24-hour Hackathon, the groups presented their ideas and peace building tools before a panel of judges, who scored the presentations in terms of creativity and efficacy. The top three groups received prizes and then presented their ideas and plan at the Congress.

(Women Wage Peace Congress and Youth Hackathon – December 2018 – photo credit Women Wage Peace)

Women Wage Peace has built a community of 40,000 women.

<https://womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>



Photo Credit Women Wage Peace



Combatants for Peace

In 2006, Israeli ex-soldiers and Palestinian former combatants laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace on the basis of non-violence principles. The movement – an egalitarian, bi-national, grass-roots organization– was founded on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces. For over a decade, Combatants for Peace have embodied and served as a model for humanistic values of freedom, democracy, security and dignity for all. Through joint nonviolence actions today, they lay the foundations for a nonviolent future. The movement already changed attitudes on a wide scale, both within the Israeli and Palestinian public as well as with governmental decision makers.

In keeping with their values, the Combatants for Peace work towards a mutually agreed upon solution that will allow both Israelis and Palestinians to live in freedom, security, democracy and dignity in their homeland. Combatants for Peace is organizing different activities that involve group meetings with Palestinian and Israeli members of the movement who present their personal stories and hold open discussions with the participants. Among their many activities, B8 of Hope was particularly inspired by their Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day ceremony. which has been held of Israeli Memorial Day for the last fourteen years. We financially supported the costs of this powerful event. It is led and produced in collaboration with the Parents Circle Families Forum, a circle of parents from both sides who have lost a child in the conflict and are choosing to grieve their losses together and build bridges through their sorrow and pave a path for a better future for the next generations. This ceremony is about togetherness and hope. In April 2018, more than 6,000 participants took part in it compared to 14 years ago when there were only 50.

A Land for All - Two States-One Homeland

This Is the newest addition to our group of initiatives.

A Land For All /Two States, One Homeland was founded by a diverse group of Israeli and Palestinian lawyers, geographers, and all sort of thinkers – whether conservatives or revolutionaries. They put their brains together to think “out of the box” and find a more just, up-to-date and realistic version of the Two-States Solution : Two States, 2 flags, 2 governments, with a freedom of movement in all the land and several joint institutions in the framework of a confederation.

What is interesting to us in this initiative is that by supporting them we are not supporting a political statement but rather the fact that people from both sides sat together in order to have a vision for the future. We want to promote that effort and show our supporters that people from both sides could sit and have a positive hopeful vision for the future.

B8 of Hope supported their media outreach through an expert who got them many interviews in the press, in the Israeli TV, and radios. They improved their social media activity and improvement of their website in three languages.

<http://www.alandforall.org/en>



B8 of Hope
Genève

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2017 AND 2018

ASSETS

	<u>2018</u> CHF	<u>2017</u> CHF
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
PostFinance	156'844.70	221'234.51
PostFinance - KARAMA	1'689.22	0.00
	<hr/> 158'533.92	<hr/> 221'234.51
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>158'533.92</u>	<u>221'234.51</u>

LIABILITIES

	<u>2018</u> CHF	<u>2017</u> CHF
<u>Short Term Creditors</u>		
Fees to pay	<hr/> 3'057.90	<hr/> 0.00
Total short term creditors	3'057.90	0.00
<u>Assets</u>		
Assets available to the association	<hr/> 155'476.02	<hr/> 221'234.51
<u>TOTAL Assets</u>	155'476.02	221'234.51
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>158'533.92</u>	<u>221'234.51</u>

INCOME AND DISBURSEMENT 31
DECEMBER 2017 AND 2018

	<u>2018</u> CHF	<u>2017</u> CHF
<u>INCOME</u>		
Charitable Contributions	170'150.14	482'389.22
Total Income	170'150.14	482'389.22
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Room hire for events	0.00	33'731.38
Other expenses for events	14'718.07	17'961.72
Travel expenses	7'894.50	2'439.48
Office materials and administrative costs	35.00	0.00
Fees and other expenses	1'020.00	1'113.83
IT costs	124.35	0.00
Bank charges	226.23	194.05
Total charges	24'018.15	55'440.46
<u>Charitable Disbursements</u>		
Support Taghyeer		
Support Roots		
Support Karama		
Women Wage Peace		
Peres Center For Peace		
Combatants For Peace		
Keshet Eilon-Polyphony Projet		
Two States One Homeland		
Total Disbursements	211'890.48	205'433.35
Change in assets available to the association	-65'758.49	221'515.41



B8 of Hope

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Make a Donation

Bank Account 14-280360-8 IBAN CH72 0900 0000 1428 0360 8 SWIFT POFICHBEXXX

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