



Newsletter

December 2020

Much has changed since our last newsletter in May! Our newsletter will bring you up to date on everything that has happened during the summer and fall months, and highlight the main events. As always, please refer to the activities page on our website for more detailed information.

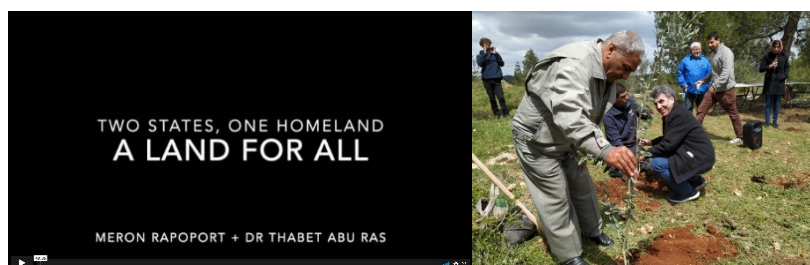
1) A new app is born in a Tech2Peace seminar supported by B8 of Hope!

Our grantee **Tech2Peace** opened registration for their summer seminars (which we co-sponsored). Young Israelis and Palestinians responded in mass! The quantity of replies was so overwhelming that B8 of Hope helped with their selection process. During these seminars (which could actually take place despite of Covid and with all the precautions needed), cohorts of 15 Israelis and 15 Palestinians participated in daily training sessions. Each participant selected a tech area of concentration to focus on: programming, 3D design & printing, Web Development, AI for Programmers, mobile app development, etc. Students completed a final project by the end of the seminar. During this period, they also engaged in conflict dialogue led by a Palestinian and an Israeli facilitator; participants gained a deeper understanding of each other's narratives while they shared their personal stories.

When Zafer and Yara reunited this summer at Tech2Peace, they developed an app called "**Care and Transfer**". This app helps medical staff in Israel and the West Bank to communicate with each other while a patient is being transferred from an ambulance to a hospital or another ambulance. [Click here to read the Times of Israel newspaper article.](#)

2) Creating connections in Luxembourg

Since our last newsletter, we have connected another grantee **A Land For All – Two States, One Homeland** with **RTL Today**, an English language news medium in Luxembourg. A Land for All's Meron Rapoport and Thabet Abu Rass were able to explain their vision for an alternative political solution to problems in the region: a confederation of 2 sovereign states, Israel and Palestine, that share the land and joint institutions.



The opportunity to meet with RTL Today was made possible by our contacts at the World Peace Forum in Luxembourg, an organization that facilitates the **Luxembourg Peace Prize**. We have nominated A Land for All - Two States, One Homeland to join their conversations and negotiations. How symbolic would it be if the efforts of A Land for All - 2 States, 1 Homeland were recognized in Schengen! Let us keep our fingers crossed until May 2021, when the decision will be announced!

3) Yara and Noa: two young peace-builders in Geneva!

This summer, we were finally able to forge some real human connections! Two young Palestinian and Israeli peace-builders, Yara and Noa came to Geneva for a 48-hour visit. Since they were both studying in Europe this year, we took the opportunity to invite them to Switzerland before they needed to head back to Tel-Aviv and the West Bank. This was their last chance to see each other free from the constraints of walls and boundaries.



Yara and Noa's presence also graced us with opportunity to meet with these two inspiring human beings. Along with a number of our B8 of Hope friends, volunteers and supporters, we listened to and learned from the story of their wonderful friendship.

4) B8 of Hope - The Podcast @ The Spot

We are very grateful to **The Spot** for producing and launching our Podcast series. In the pilot episode, Noa and Yara inspired their European peers when they both kindly agreed to become the ambassadors of our future **Youth Group**.



[Click here to listen to our podcast on your preferred platform.](#)

5) Supporting Women Wage Peace and their rally against annexation



The annexation plan of the West Bank is a topic that haunted the whole peace community in the weeks leading up to July. Our grantees **Women Wage Peace** organized a rally against this plan. The event was supported by B8 of Hope, and is featured in the clip below.

Women Wage Peace is an inclusive movement that welcomes Israeli women from all walks of life and political, ethnic and religious backgrounds (Jewish, Muslim and Christian included). They often form partnerships with Palestinian women from the West Bank. They call for a return to diplomacy and a mutually agreed upon, peaceful solution.

B8 of Hope values dialogue, bridge-building, inclusivity, humanization, transformative interactions and constructive changes, all within the framework of respect for equal rights, dignity, security and the rejection of all forms of violence. Unilateral decisions jeopardize the work of courageous Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders: unfortunately, they undermine the chances of a mutually agreed-upon solution.

Many of the organizations and movements that benefit from our support took a stance against the annexation plan. In the spirit of our beliefs and values, we commend the hard work of our pool of grantees and peace-builders.

6) Screening of “Disturbing the Peace”

In August, B8 of Hope hosted our Swiss friend Grégoire Duruz who works for the German organization Ageamundo in Jerusalem. One of his roles at Ageamundo is to support our grantee organization **Combatants for Peace** with capacity building. We sat with Grégoire to brainstorm new ways to engage young people with Combatants for Peace’s universal message: “*There is another way*” (than war) was very helpful.

In fact, our summer discussions led to a small virtual event in November--a screening of **Disturbing the Peace**. As you might recall, this multi-award winning documentary depicts the experiences of former Palestinian fighters and ex-Israeli soldiers who put down their weapons to build a better future together. The event was organised by the **University of Geneva’s Association of Arab Students (AMAGE)**. Engaging youth communities is an important part of our role as educators for peace.



7) Evaluating our impact



Our time these last 6 months was also spent working on a 360 degree feedback survey that our grantees, supporters, peers and volunteers were asked to complete. The purpose of this survey was to us help evaluate our work, and develop improvements.

A summary of the results will be included in our 2020 Annual Report: coming soon!

8) Our on-going internship program

In September, our intern Destiny Spruill finished her internship and resumed her studies at Columbia University. In turn, we welcomed our new intern, Jessica Fayon. Jessica graduated from London Regent's University with a Major in Media and Communications. She is currently remodeling our digital presence.

9) Philanthropic Adventures: engaging the youth in Geneva

This fall, we have also embarked on a new adventure with a fantastic partner association : **Philanthropic Adventures**. This Geneva-based association provides an educational platform that helps young people find information, inspiration and support for taking action in favor of social and environmental issues. Paola Genovese, the founder of Philanthropic Adventures, chose B8 of Hope to use as an example of peace philanthropy and advocacy. Her new cohort of philanthropic adventurers were encouraged to learn from us. Stay tuned for more information in January.



10) Our second podcast episode featuring The Road to Recovery

The second episode of our Podcast was recorded and released in December. It features **The Road to Recovery**, an Israeli grassroots initiative which is part of our pool of grantees. This initiative consists of a network of Israeli volunteer drivers that transport Palestinian patients from checkpoints to Israeli hospitals. Thanks to them, patients receive essential treatments that are not available in Palestinian hospitals.



[Click here to listen to our podcast on your preferred platform.](#)

To produce this new episode, our co-founder and chair Mehra Rimer travelled virtually with Zoom to Ramat-Gan, then landed in the waiting room of the Sheba Hospital!!! She engaged in a very touching conversation with Dan and Susan. Dan is an Israeli volunteer driver and Susan is a Palestinian mother of two young children. One of Susan's children has cancer, while the other has a severe disorder called periodic paralysis. Mehra's firsthand experience of the Road to Recovery's work aptly imparts two important elements of their mission: humanitarian action and humanization!

The Road to Recovery's work addresses medical needs, but their charge is not limited to that alone. Conversations in the car or waiting room are also significant. Stopping by the beach or the park on the way home helps to end a difficult hospital visit on a more positive note. Factoring in the human experience makes all the difference. Changing peoples' mindsets, and forging personal connections are pre-conditions for the path to peace. Road to Recovery is unquestionably paving that path: every foot counts!

11) Mid East Storytellers: a photo-storytelling project by and for peace-activists

In November, we partnered with **The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)** for a pilot project that features members of our respective peace building organizations. The project was launched and managed by ALLMEP, co-financed by B8 of Hope, and designed by two experts, Noa Urbach, social impact entrepreneur, and Rom Barnea, storyteller.

Participants were introduced to the photo-story method of narration. The first phase of the project was a 2-session workshop held during the second week of November. The efficiency and creativity present at this workshop was nothing short of impressive! Participants left with a set of new skills that will enable them create photo-stories (a technique that uses pictures and short powerful texts). These newly acquired skills will be put to good use in participants' daily social media posts.

The second phase of the workshop focused participants on a story unique to themselves as peace-builders, or a more general account of the current times in which they live. The results will be posted as from January 21st on a website built by the 2 experts.



The link to this website will be released on January 21st: stay tuned!

A prestigious jury (comprised of a British-Iranian TV anchor from France 24 who is based in Paris, two Israeli and Palestinian film makers, and an advertising professional) will select the winning story. A virtual awards ceremony will take place on January 21, 2021. The winner will be awarded photography material as well as a branding package from a reputable company.

This website will then be promoted by a professional advertisement agency, and will hopefully go viral. We (ALLMEP and B8 of Hope) will help to create an audience by sharing the website broadly with our contacts. A teaser of the project was screened at the virtual ALLMEP Gala in mid-December. In Geneva, we hope to give the project maximum visibility by mounting an exhibit this winter.

With all this work getting done in Geneva, our grantees on the ground carried on with their usual activities!

For a more in-depth report, please refer to their newsletters and websites :

- A Land for All Two States One Homeland: <https://www.ogspeaks.com/>
- Combatants for Peace <https://cfpeace.org/news/>
- Greenland Society for Health Development : <http://www.glskd.org/>
- Jerusalem Youth Chorus <https://jerusalemyouthchorus.org/>
- Our Generation Speaks: <https://www.ogspeaks.com/>
- Parents Circle Families Forum : <https://mailchi.mp/theparentscircle/newsletter-november-2020>
- Peres Center for Peace / Saving Children Program : <https://www.peres-center.org/en/the-organization/projects/medicine/>
- Polyphony : <https://spark.adobe.com/page/LkWaupD1htCMH/>
- Road to Recovery : <http://www.roadtorecovery.org.il/Site/he/index.html>
- Roots : <https://madmimi.com/p/2295111?pact=219620-159495332-8117663564-184c9ae52af5976385c6310a51348f1593b458f4>
- Taghyeer Movement : <https://taghyeerpal.ps/news/>
- Teachers'Loungde : <https://teachersloungejer.wixsite.com/teachers-lounge-eng/initiatives>
- Tech2Peace : <https://www.tech2peace.com/>
- Women Wage Peace: <https://womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>
- Zimam: <https://www.zimam.ps/home>

You made it !

Thank you for reading all the way to end and see you in 2021!

