



Newsletter

Special Edition - June 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The harsh and tragic days that just took place in the Holy Land are still very vivid in everyone's hearts and minds. Thankfully a cease-fire was finally announced. However, anger and sadness do not stop with cease-fire, nor does the eternal status quo of the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. People's mindsets will not change by the wave of a magic wand. After this traumatic May 2021 episode, trust and hope need to be restored, more than ever, and there is a lot of work ahead of the Israeli and Palestinian civil society peace-building and change-making community

Standing together with "the other" does not mean you forget the pain. It only means that you are courageous enough to go out of your comfort zone and choose to find partners in building a future based on equal rights, dignity and security for all.

Many peace-builders and ordinary people in the Holy Land chose the path of peace during the peak of violence last month! Sadly it barely made the news. Please [click here](#) to see some heartwarming pictures to which we would like to give visibility

Yesterday, June 2nd, our Chair and co—Founder Mehra Rimer was interviewed on the Swiss Radio and Television network. Click on the image below to hear about B8 of Hope's vision & mission:



It is time for voices of those sharing a new vision and wishing for a just future based on mutual respect, equal rights, dignity and security for all to be heard loud and clear !

And to this end, we have some good news to share :

At B8 of Hope, we act sometimes as « artistic agents » except that our artists are inspiring Palestinian and Israeli peace builders and change makers emanating from the civil society organizations and movements. A few months ago, we nominated [A Land for All, Two States One Homeland](#) (an Israeli and Palestinian joint initiative belonging to the pool we support) to the 2020/2021 Luxembourg Peace Prize. And...

[A Land for All , 2 States One Homeland won the Outstanding Peace Support category!](#)

The sad events of the last weeks only strengthen their belief (and ours) that they are on the right path. They proved that the policy of “managing the conflict” has failed and that Palestinians and Israelis living all over this land cannot be separated from this land. Therefore the road to peace and reconciliation passes through real and tangible equality and partnership.

« Since its inception, A Land for All, Two States One Homeland’s founders worked relentlessly to draw a vision which can accommodate all aspirations of both sides, alleviate fears and offer a vision that can integrate core pillars to become the foundations for a future just, sustainable and long lasting peace, for all people living in the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. »

said Nasri Barghouti, the Palestinian representative of the movement and co-laureate of the award, with Meron Rapoport, the Israeli representative of the movement.

The Luxembourg Peace Prize represents the growing recognition of the importance of the ideas and the activities of A Land for All, Two States One Homeland. It is sponsored by the Schengen Peace Foundation and the World Peace Forum which are committed to contribute to " the construction of a more peaceful world by promoting peace, tolerance and understanding ".

The “hybrid” ceremony was held on Friday, 28th May at the University of Luxembourg. B8 of Hope was present, represented by its Chair and co-founder Mehra Rimer and by Chrystelle Thiébaud, our administrative and special project coordinator.

The spokespersons and active Israeli and Palestinian members of A Land for All, Two States One Homeland joined both in presence and virtually.

This movement was founded in 2012, by Israeli and Palestinian thinkers, geographers, lawyers and agents of change. It was born out of a series of meetings which resulted in a Statement of Principles: democracy, freedom of movement, sovereignty, justice, security, Jerusalem and a homeland for all in the framework of a confederation of two independent States with several joint institutions. For more details, please refer to [their booklet](#).



Congratulations to A Land for All!



We wish to conclude this Special edition on a “musical note of hope” by the students of Polyphony : Polyphony's students maintained contact and shared mutual concern for each other’s safety throughout the cycle of violence. In addition, they felt a strong need to speak up and sound the voice of co-existence, shared living and mutual respect.

We are proud to share with you a short video that they produced to express these ideas and values on social media platforms. We hope it will inspire you as much as it has inspired us. Click on the image below:



Polyphony Foundation was co-founded by Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, a classically trained violinist who serves as Executive Director of Polyphony Education in Israel. Polyphony has created programs where young Arabs and Jews in Israel can come together through classical music. B8 of Hope sponsors Polyphony’s scholars in residence seminars.

B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team



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