

# Geneva Initiative

## ANNUAL REPORT 2 0 1 7



**Palestinian Peace  
Coalition (PPC)**



تحالف السلام الفلسطيني  
Palestinian Peace Coalition

**H.L. Education  
for Peace (HLEP)**



# Dear friends,

This annual report includes a brief summary of activities that were implemented in 2017 by the two offices of the Geneva Initiative: the Palestinian Peace Coalition in Palestine and H. L. Education for Peace in Israel.

Our educational programming over the course of the year reached thousands of Palestinians and Israelis, senior decision-makers as well as opinion shapers, aspiring young leaders and women. We held numerous courses, seminars, workshops and tours, through which we provided people with information and tools to improve their understanding of the conflict and proposed solutions, and encouraged them to actively promote peace. At the same time, we helped keep the two-state solution on the international community's agenda by providing key international actors with up-to-date information and analysis that reflects the perspectives of civil society on both sides.

This year, we also placed a strong emphasis on bringing Israelis and Palestinians together for an open dialogue about the conflict and ways to end it. In the absence of formal peace talks and as the situation on the ground deteriorates, a political dialogue between the two societies becomes more and more rare, and all the more important. As the only Israeli-Palestinian organization working to promote the two-state solution, we see it as our duty to continue to hold these meetings, in order to keep a channel of communication open and to demonstrate to people on both sides that they are not alone in their pursuit of peace.

This will remain our commitment in 2018. We thank our supporters for making our work possible in 2017, and invite you to join us in our journey to the inevitable final destination: Peace.



**Nidal Foqaha**

CEO, the Palestinian Peace  
Coalition-Geneva Initiative



**Gadi Baltiansky**

CEO, H. L. Education for  
Peace-Geneva Initiative

# Highlights



Over 3,000 Israeli and Palestinian decision-makers and other influencers have taken part in our educational activities.



We held over 50 meetings between Palestinians and Israelis over the course of the year.



84% of graduates of our programming said that their level of knowledge regarding the conflict increased. 87% said that they now better understand the perspective of the other side and are willing to work with them on common issues.



Graduates of our programming for young leaders have launched 13 local peace initiatives in Israel and Palestine in the past year.



52% of our participants in 2017 were women.



Tens of thousands in Palestine, Israel and abroad followed our Facebook pages, web sites and twitter accounts – in Arabic, Hebrew and English.



In 2017, we partnered with 50 Palestinian and Israeli Civil Society Organizations and supported numerous new pro-peace initiatives.



Diplomats, foreign ministers and representatives from international organizations regularly attend our briefings – in Palestine/Israel and abroad.



# Keeping the Dialogue Alive

In 2017, the Palestinian Peace Coalition and the H.L. Education for Peace, organized numeral joint activities for Palestinian and Israeli opinion shapers and decision-makers, including senior party leaders, parliamentary staff, journalists, women and youth. In a time where Israelis and Palestinians hardly ever meet and discuss issues related to the conflict, these meetings enable us to tackle misconceptions, break stereotypes and demonstrate that there is a partner for peace on the other side.



Palestinian and Israeli political leaders at a joint seminar in Yad Hashmona, August



Palestinian and Israeli Youth leaders at a joint seminar in Yahood, November



## Keeping the Dialogue Alive



Joint seminar in Nazareth, October



Palestinian and Israeli leaders at a joint meeting in Jaffa, July



Palestinian and Israeli Youth leaders at a joint seminar in Nazareth, October

# Learning from other Conflicts, Together

Every conflict is unique, but knowing the history of other conflicts and learning from the experience of those who managed to transition to a more peaceful era can empower Israelis and Palestinians and inspire them to take action in support of peace. During 2017, we engaged hundreds of people from both sides in discussions about lessons learned from other conflicts.



Reconciliation expert Dr. Galit Deshe lecturing on the conflict in Northern Ireland, at seminar for Israeli female political leaders, Yad Hashmona, December



Cyprus expert Dr. Harry Tzimitras speaking about the conflict in Cyprus at a Geneva Initiative conference, Jerusalem, September



Seminar for young political leaders from Israel and Palestine in Nicosia, October



# Forming International Partnerships

By attending international conferences, regularly meeting with ministers of foreign affairs and diplomats and providing them with up-to-date information and analysis, we supported the work of the international community over the course of the year, and helped keep the Two-State Solution on their agenda. We also shared with key international actors our ideas and proposals, which we developed together in reaction to political developments.



Ambassadors and diplomats at a briefing at the Geneva Initiative offices, Ramat Gan, March



Brigadier General (Ret.) Israella Oron, Geneva Initiative Board Member, speaking at JStreet's 2017 National Conference, Washington D.C. February



PPC Board Member Samih Abid briefing senior officials from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague, May



## Forming International Partnerships



A high-level meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Beijing, organized in partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December. Left to right: Mr. Nidal Foqaha, PPC CEO, H.E Mr. Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Gadi Baltiansky, HLEP CEO



Geneva Initiative delegation briefing diplomats in Bern, October. In this briefing, which was hosted by the Swiss government and attended by senior representatives from key European and other states, we presented concrete ways to help people on both sides overcome the many psychological barriers that make conflict resolution so difficult.

## Forming International Partnerships



Ms. Monica Stein-Olson USAID Mission Director in Israel, West Bank & Gaza with Mr. Nidal Foqaha, PPC CEO, at the PPC's Office, Ramallah, October



H.E Mr. Per Örneus, Sweden's Ambassador for Humanitarian Policy and the Special Envoy to the Middle East Peace Process and Mr. Nidal Foqaha, PPC CEO, in the PPC's Office, Ramallah, August



Mr. Ralph Tarraf, European Union Representative meeting with the PPC staff in Ramallah, June



# Engaging Palestinian Society

## Youth Leaders

During this year, the PPC continued organizing lectures and capacity building seminars for young leaders, who come from various backgrounds and districts. Our work with youth in Palestine aims to build their capacity by raising their awareness regarding core issue of the conflict, enhancing their political and interpersonal skills, and providing them with the space to share their opinions freely. Participants in this type of activities receive training on negotiation skills, problem solving, lobbying and critical thinking and other important skills. Attending such activities provides the young participants with information and skills necessary for an active political, democratic and social participation.

This year, the PPC organized 46 seminars that brought together a total number of 1948 students and young leaders from various communities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

46 Activities    1948 young leaders



Ms. Anna Kaisa, Ambassador of Finland to the PA during a two-day youth and women seminar, Nidal Fqaha, PPC CEO and Samih Abid, PPC Board member in Ramallah, November



Seminar for youth and women, with Ms. Anna Kaisa, Ambassador of Finland to the PA in Ramallah, November



## Engaging Palestinian Society Youth Leaders



Capacity Building seminar for youth and women, Gaza, April



Youth Group work in Gaza during a Capacity Building Seminar for youth and women, Gaza, May



## Engaging Palestinian Society Youth Leaders



A Capacity Building seminar for Youth and Women in Jericho, May



Youth participating in Capacity Building seminar in Ramallah, May



Capacity Building seminar for youth and women in Ramallah, October



Youth political conference on the status of palestinian youth. Ramallah, July

# Engaging Palestinian Society

## Women

In 2017, the PPC implemented a program for women and young female leaders that targeted some 207 Palestinian women. This series of activities aimed to provide a cohort of women leaders with knowledge of the conflict, and to raise their awareness on the importance of their role in the Palestinian society and political life. The courses tackled various issues related to women participation, including the social and religious obstacles that prevent women from actively engaging in the social and political processes.

The PPC organized 5 capacity building courses, bringing together a total number of 207 females and young leaders in different communities in Palestine.



5 Activities 207 Participants



Women leaders participating in Capacity Building seminars in Gaza, March. From right to left Ms. Mariam Shaqura, Ms. Marsel Al Masri and Ms. Majida Al Balbisi



# Engaging Palestinian Society

## Decision Makers

Our work with decision makers and politicians in Palestine continued during 2017. We organized 16 seminars and meetings, which brought together representatives of different political groups, PLO leaders, senior government officials and local leaders. The assemblies were mainly political seminars and conferences which addressed several important issues related to politics in Palestine and to the future Palestinian state. Also, the PPC representatives held several individual meetings with PLO officials and other decision makers, including from Fatah.

16 Activities 959 participants



Political Conference for decision and policy makers, Gaza, September



Opinion leaders and decision makers, June



## Engaging Palestinian Society Decision Makers



Political Conference for decision and policy makers, Gaza, September



Opinion leaders and decision makers, October



# Engaging Palestinian Society

## Local Community

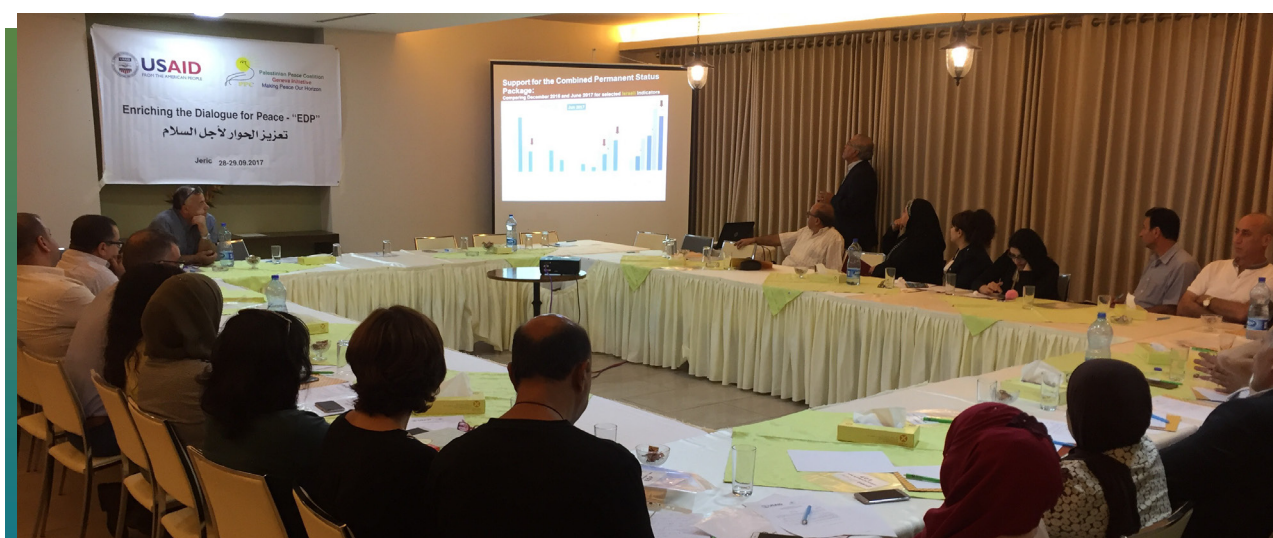
In 2017, the PPC held 9 courses in partnership with the local community leadership and representatives of local community organizations in several districts in Palestine. These courses were mainly hosted by the local community organizations, either municipalities or civil society organizations.

The main goal of these activities was to provide Palestinian local leaders with the knowledge and leadership skills to engage their constituency more effectively, especially in remote areas, to promote peace and advocate for the two-state formula.

9 Meetings 376 Participants



Local community discussing recent political development and public opinion polls, Jericho, August



Local community leaders participation in Jericho, September



## Engaging Palestinian Society Local Community



Local community leaders seminar in Salfeet, August

# Engaging the Israeli Society



Hundreds of Israeli decision-makers and public opinion shapers have taken part in our Education for Peace activities over the course of the year. The Geneva initiative held dozens of seminars, conferences, tours, workshops and lectures across the country, placing special focus on non-traditional peace supporters from across the political spectrum, including young political and social leaders, senior officials from center-right parties and key members of the Russian-speaking community in Israel.



Parliamentary advisors from various coalition and opposition parties touring the Palestinian city of Rawabi, September



## Engaging the Israeli Society



Conference on Learned from Other conflicts, which was hundreds of participants, Jerusalem, September. From left to right: Geneva Initiative Israeli Chairperson Dr. Yossi Beilin; conference participants; panel discussion with conflict experts



## Engaging the Israeli Society



Democracy and Human Rights expert Dr. Michal Barak at a seminar for political and social leaders from the Israeli Russian-speaking community, Ma'ale HaHamisha, July



Senior members of the Likud party with conflict resolution expert Dr. Yuval Benziman at a workshop for center-right leaders, Yad Hashmona, November



Participants in a leadership course for young leaders meeting Ashraf al-Ajrami, former Palestinian Minister of Prisoners Affairs, Tel-Aviv, June



## Engaging the Israeli Society



Tour of the Greater Jerusalem area for political leaders from Ashkelon, led by security and borders expert Dr. Shaul Arieli, April



Russian-speaking political and social leaders at a seminar in Ma'ale HaHamisha, July



Participant studying the Geneva Initiative proposed solutions for Jerusalem at a workshop on borders and security, Jerusalem, March



Geneva Initiative supporters at the annual Yitzhak Rabin memorial, Tel-Aviv, November

## Engaging the Israeli Society



GI board member and human rights expert Talia Sasson at a seminar for female political leaders, Yad Hashmona, December

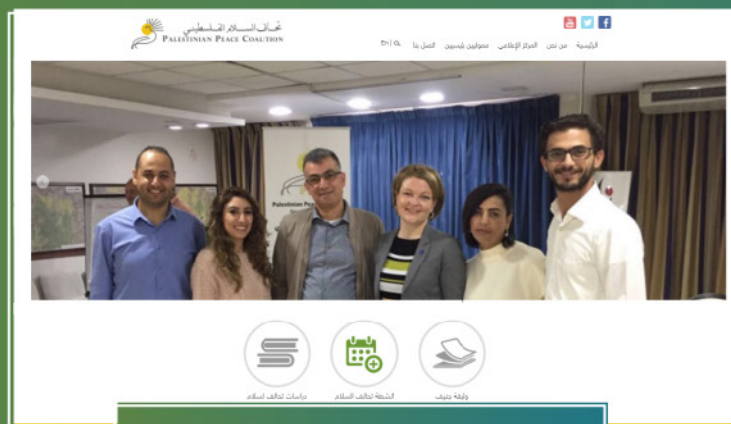


Senior demographer Professor Sergio Della Pergola lecturing on demographic aspects of the conflict at a workshop for political leaders, Tel Aviv, June



Security expert Brigadier General (ret.) Shlomo Brom speaking to a group of Russian-speaking leaders, Ma'ale HaHamisha, June

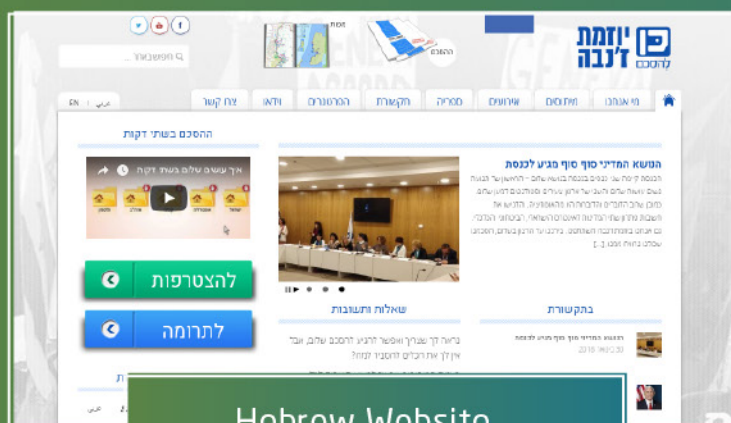




Arabic Website  
<http://ppc.org.ps>



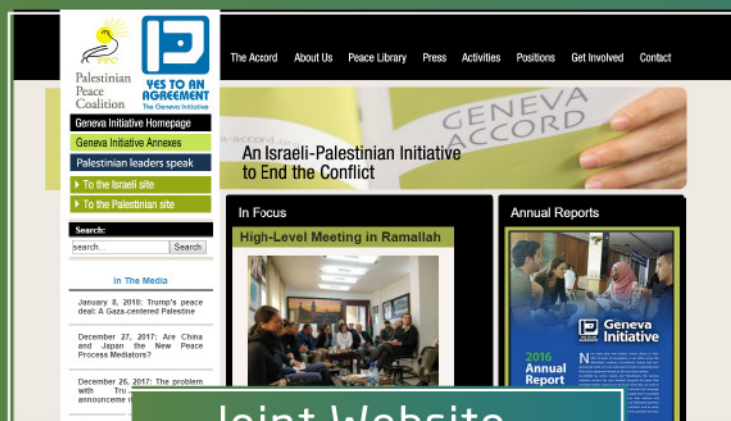
Arabic Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/PalestinianPeaceCoalitionGenevaInitiative>



Hebrew Website  
<http://heskem.org.il/>



Hebrew Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/heskem/>



Joint Website  
<http://www.geneva-adccord.org>



Joint Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/genevainitiative/>

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YES TO AN  
AGREEMENT  
The Geneva Initiative