

הקרן החדשה לישראל
New Israel Fund
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل
Australia Foundation

OUR PROGRESS IN 2013



SO FAR IN 2013

NIF Australia has had a very successful 2013 so far - we hired our first full-time staff member, grew our board, established our Advisory Council, held events that reached more than 1,000 people, and we continue to attract new supporters and donors. Get involved with NIF Australia at www.nif.org.au/volunteer



During 2013, NIF Australia has strengthened its position as a positive voice within the Australian Jewish community, widening the conversation about human rights, social justice and tolerance, and supporting Israeli not-for-profits working to realise those values in the Jewish state. We have co-sponsored events with others in Australia who share those values and hosted speakers who contribute on-the-ground knowledge and experience of current challenges in Israel. A new milestone was achieved when major Jewish leaders, with decades of communal and public service, joined our Advisory Council.

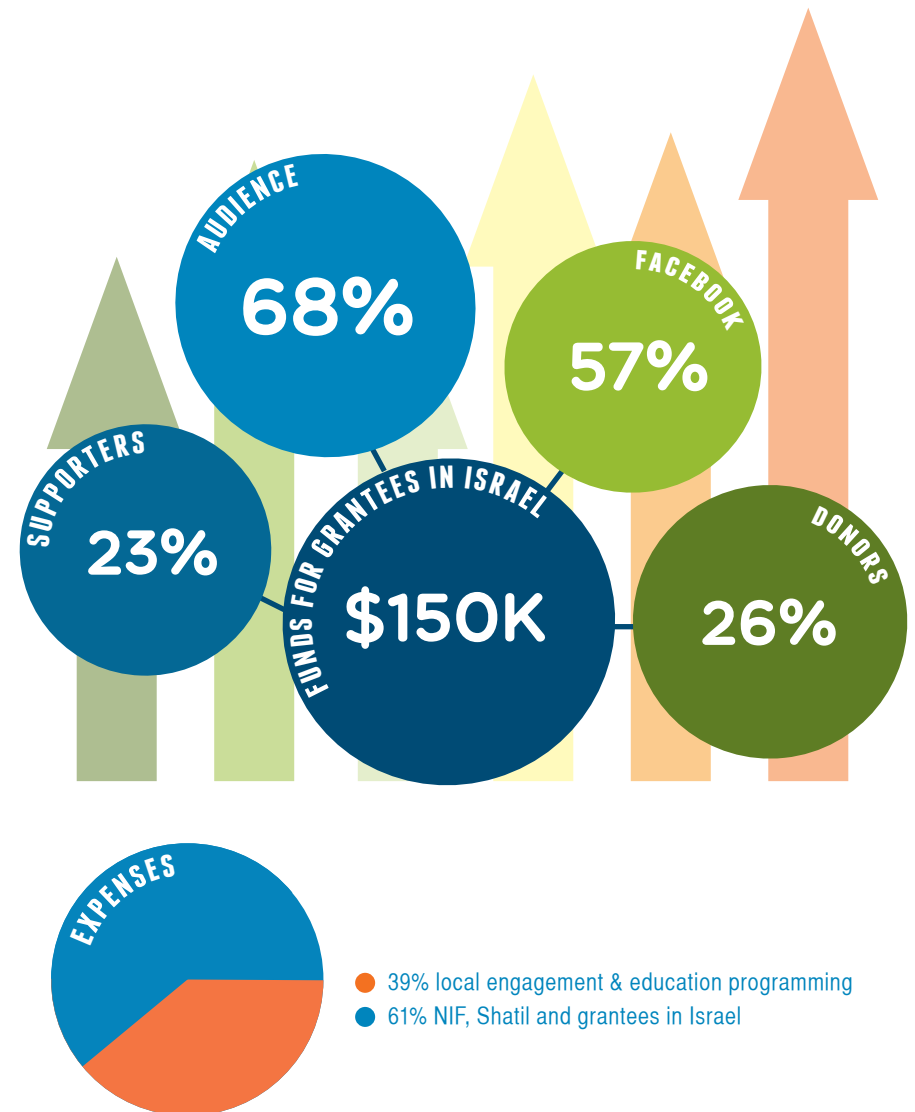
Robin Margo
President, NIF Australia

There are so many of us in the Jewish community in Australia who love Israel, but also share a deep concern for its future. We are worried about poverty and affordable housing, increasingly marginalised communities, and the long-term impact of the occupation. We're growing NIF Australia as a voice for those issues -- people who want to stand up and be proud of Israel, and at the same time work for it to be more aligned with our social justice values. We've made amazing progress in just two years, and the future is bright. I'm excited to see where the next two years will take us.

Liam Getreu
Executive Director, NIF Australia



STATISTICS



Thanks to the generous support of two major donors, NIF Australia's administration and fundraising costs are being covered in 2013 and 2014.

EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

It's important to have a voice that promotes social and economic justice, human rights, tolerant and inclusive democracy, the environment and the principles of equality and antidiscrimination. See when our next event is at www.nif.org.au/events

EVENTS WITH HAGAI EL-AD,

FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL

Our campaign in the second half of 2012 involved Hagai El-Ad, Executive Director of NIF's flagship grantee, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI). Hagai spoke to hundreds of supporters in his two weeks in Sydney and Melbourne. Highlights included our NIForum Melbourne event, for our supporters in their 20s and 30s, and an event in collaboration with JewishCare in Sydney.

More than 150 youth movement leaders, university students and young professionals came to hear Hagai speak about the organisation's strategy in bringing human rights cases before the High Court of Justice, the legal and social acceptance of Israel's LGBT community, and the positive impact ACRI has had on Israeli society in the sphere of disability and women's rights. NIF Australia also organised events with the Australian Human Rights Law Centre and Liberty Victoria to create engagement with the non-Jewish human rights sphere, to focus their attention on our positive work.



RELIGIOUS PLURALISM ACTIVIST MICKEY GITZIN IN AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Limmud Oz, we brought Mickey Gitzin, from grantee Israel Hofshit ("Be Free Israel"), to Australia. Mickey's work was very well received at our events. Mickey presented at Limmud in Sydney and Melbourne to large crowds, including more than 200 NIForum (20s and 30s) supporters of NIF. Together, we raised the important issues of civil marriage, the Ultra-Orthodox rabbinate's monopoly over personal status issues, public transportation on Shabbat, and ensuring Ultra-Orthodox schools teach core curriculum subjects like English, maths and science in state-funded schools.



POST-ELECTION ISRAEL UPDATE WITH FORMER

KNESSET SPEAKER AVRUM BURG

Just a day after Israel's election, we hosted an event with former Knesset speaker and NIF board member Avrum Burg to give a briefing to our supporters on the election's results. For the first time, we experimented with technology that allowed us not just to create an event via video with an Israeli speaker, but also to beam the conversation into anyone's living room via web stream. Avrum spoke at length about the impact of the election results on Israeli society, particularly the limited role Ultra-Orthodox parties would play in the next Knesset.

In total, more than 500 people participated in the event, either in parlour events in Sydney and Melbourne, or by watching at home. It was the best-attended post-election function hosted by any Jewish communal organisation.

GRANTEE FOCUS

In Israel, NIF distributes more than \$22 million each year to Shatil, NIF's capacity building and empowerment arm, as well as more than 100 grantees in the fields of social and economic justice, human rights, and freedom of religion. Learn about the range of NIF's work, and NIF Australia's chosen projects at www.nif.org.au/nif_israel

ACHOTI ("MY SISTER")

Achoti works to improve the lives and strengthen the voices of disadvantaged women and men, with a focus on Mizrahim (Israelis of Middle Eastern origin), Ethiopians, Arabs, Bedouin, and migrant workers. This year, Achoti is focussing on economic empowerment by facilitating an Ethiopian women's embroidery and fashion cooperative in Kiryat Gat; and Women Cooking Up Business, a collaborative catering enterprise for low-income women. Eight women specialists from diverse backgrounds are documenting and reporting on racism and sexism in the media in a joint Achoti and SHATIL project.

Achoti is also tackling key issues in South Tel Aviv, such as violence against women, incitement against African asylum seekers and organising community meetings between local municipal political candidates, local asylum seekers and veteran residents to give voice to their issues. Achoti used a special NIF grant in 2013 to expand the "Achoti House" which contains a coffee shop, library and space for exhibitions and workshops.



THE NEGEV COEXISTENCE FORUM FOR CIVIL EQUALITY

NCF promotes civil rights for Bedouin and Jewish residents of the Negev. This past year, the Forum hosted activities in their community centre, including exhibitions, discussion groups, panels, workshops, film screenings and study groups intended to increase understanding and compassion. NCF led 40 tours to unrecognised Bedouin villages for students, religious groups, NGOs, and foreign journalists, aiming to raise awareness and encourage dialogue.

The Forum's community projects included two photography workshops for kids in the villages of A-Sir and Chasam-Zaneh, and workshops to train residents of unrecognised villages to advocate for their rights. The Forum is working in collaboration with other NIF grantees to challenge the government's Praver-Begin Plan, which if implemented would displace tens of thousands of Bedouin from their homes, and recently published a report documenting the gaps in provision of state services to Jewish and Bedouin citizens of the Negev, which received wide media coverage. The Forum is now working with the Tel Aviv Cinematheque to plan a 2-day film festival on the lives of the Negev Bedouin.



COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Since the 2011 summer protests, the issue of affordable housing remains high on the public agenda. Thanks to efforts by the Coalition for Affordable Housing, planning committees are now required to include housing for disempowered sectors in new residential construction plans. The Coalition is also waging a public campaign and conducting litigation to increase the number of such apartments.

SHATIL, the New Israel Fund's action arm, continues to play a central role in the Coalition. In Rishon Letzion, it provided training on concepts of affordable housing to a group of older immigrants from the former Soviet Union who wish to live out their senior years without having to move out of their current homes. In Hadera, following a SHATIL training session on citizen activism in the lead-up to municipal elections, a group of housing activists invited candidates to a forum to give their proposals on solutions to the affordable housing crisis. SHATIL is also encouraging new affordable housing models, such as the first-ever cooperative housing project for young Arab-Israeli citizens, to be located in the mixed city of Lod.



To celebrate Women of the Wall's 25th anniversary, NIF collated dozens of stories from women throughout Israel and the Diaspora as part of the "Taking Our Place" campaign. Together with the Australian Reform Zionist Association (ARZA), NIF Australia gathered submissions from five Jewish Australian women who have played leadership roles in Australian Jewry for decades. The book was then presented to Anat Hoffman at a ceremony at the Kotel, and printed in a special insert in Haaretz newspaper in November.

Read their stories, and more about the campaign, at www.nif.org.au/wow25



This year, NIF's "Kick Racism Out of Football" project celebrated its 10th anniversary. Launched in partnership with the Israel Football Association (IFA), the program has brought Israelis from all sectors together under the banner "football for all" to bring an end to racism in soccer. Until a few years ago it wasn't uncommon to hear chants like "Death to Arabs" at some soccer games, but over the last decade anti-racism banners around stadiums have replaced those chants, and racist attacks and incidents have decreased by more than 60%.

Learn more about the program at www.nif.org.au/kickracismout



OUR SUPPORTERS

NIF Australia's supporters come from all parts of the Jewish community - left and right, religious and secular, Orthodox and Progressive. Here are just two people who have chosen to join NIF Australia in the last two-and-a-half years. Get your friends involved at www.nif.org.au/recruit

The Green Environment Fund project ticked important boxes for the family, so we placed Marie Frankel's bequest there. The project involves collaboration between Jewish and Arab Israelis, school children, and conservation. The NIF network of grantees I have met are most impressive and their work is constructive and practical. I feel strongly that NIF presents a voice of reason and humanity that needs to be heard. My support of Israel is boosted by the role that NIF plays.



*Lee Santow
NIF Australia donor, Sydney*



I joined NIF Australia to support activists in Israel who are working to build a more vibrant and just society, and to offer us, Israel's friends in the Diaspora, an opportunity to be a part of that essential work. At a time when the great challenges facing Israel have led many to abandon their commitment to liberal and democratic values, it is so important that we support those on the ground fighting to uphold these values and to make Israel a better place.

*Michael Hershan,
NIForum (20s & 30s) member of the NIF Australia board*



NIF AUSTRALIA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Established this year, the NIF Australia Advisory Council's combined experience of decades of service to the public and the Australian Jewish community provides NIF Australia with an invaluable source of advice. Learn more about the Council and all four of its members at www.nif.org.au/advisory_council

Given my strong and enduring commitment to universal human rights and social justice, I have chosen to demonstrate my support for Israel by becoming actively involved with the NIF, an organisation that promotes and upholds these values in Israel. The importance and relevance of organisations in Israel like the NIF will only grow in the diaspora with young people increasingly expressing the view that they wish to engage with Israel in new and more fulfilling ways.



*Robyne Schwarz AM,
Past President, Jewish Care Victoria*



I strongly believe that Israel can be both a Jewish state and a state genuinely committed to democratic values, respect for the human rights and equality of opportunity for all. Yet this ideal is far from being realised. NIF has a crucial role to play in bringing the ideal closer to realisation. Equally important, it provides a much needed, well-informed voice within the Jewish community between uncritical defenders of all Israel's policies and those who seek to delegitimise Israel.

*Ronald Sackville AO QC
Formerly Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, Visiting Professor, University of NSW*



VISITING ISRAEL?

Next time you're travelling to Israel, be in touch so we can arrange a visit to one of NIF's amazing grantees. No matter your interest – social and economic justice, civil and human rights, religious freedom, advancing the status of women, or shared society – we will be happy to arrange an insightful and meaningful experience.

Go to www.nif.org.au/visitisrael and we'll get back to you.

DONATE

NIF Australia's success is thanks to the generosity and commitment of our donors and supporters. Your donation allows us to continue to educate and engage, as well as financially support, human rights, social and economic justice, and religious pluralism in Israel.

Visit www.nif.org.au/donate to give your donation.



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