



Newsletter

June 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Before you dive into this newsletter, please [click here](#) and enjoy a short clip about “B8 of Hope Synergies Tour 2022”.



Speaking of this tour, we are thrilled to share with you the **7 selected projects, involving a total of 15 organizations:**

- Creation of a “train-the-trainers” Negotiation Skills Program in Arabic by [Zimam](#) & Pathways for Negotiation Education
- Coordination to facilitate Palestinian patients’ access to medical care by [Road to Recovery](#) & Physicians for Human Rights Israel
- Art therapy and trauma healing courses for Palestinian youth from the South Hebron hills by [Taghyeer](#) & Holy Land Trust
- Arabic/Hebrew language courses for Israelis and Palestinians young leaders by Lissan, [MEET](#), [50:50 Startups](#) & Palestinian Internship Program
- Start-up pre-accelerator program by [Tech2Peace](#) & [50:50 Startups](#)
- Professional development program for Arab and Jewish teachers in the mixed Israeli city of Ramle by [Teachers’ Lounge](#) & Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue
- Summer singing camp and Open Mic youth song Festival by [Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#) & Kids4Peace



In the meantime, our intense work continued throughout the Spring:

➤ April

Sadly the beginning of spring saw an eruption of deep tension and violence in the region. Unsurprisingly this coincided with a time of festivities for the 3 religions: Easter, Pesah and Ramadan.

"The reality on the ground is **unjust, ugly, and brutal**. Our community of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders are acting to disrupt that reality and this increasingly dangerous dynamic. They are calling on all, citizens and leaders alike, to **#CoResistTheViolence**."



B8 of Hope fully supports and promotes the above message of our [partners Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#). We continue to work for our region of interest by promoting a respectful coexistence based on equality, dignity and security for all.

Speaking of [ALLMEP](#), April was in fact a time to meet our partners in Washington DC. The meeting was a preparation of the Mid East Storytellers' exhibit that is due to take place this December during the [J-Street conference](#). Mid East Storytellers is a joint project of ALLMEP and B8 of Hope ([click here](#) to explore it online).

Whilst in Washington, Mehra also met with experts of the [USIP \(United States Institute of Peace\)](#) to compare notes and get feedback from this important institution (established by the American Congress in 1984). USIP is an organization devoted to the nonviolent prevention and mitigation of conflicts.



**UNITED STATES
INSTITUTE OF PEACE**
Making Peace Possible

Being in the USA was also an opportunity to catch up with different representatives of B8 of Hope grantees such as: Micah Hendler, founder of the [Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#), Stephen Stern, CEO of the American Friends of [Taghyeer Movement](#), Carolyn Mays, newest director of [New Story Leadership](#) and several of its board members - Greg Robinson, Liane Dorsey and Joyce Schwarz, as well as with Diana Kutlow from [Hands of Peace](#). All these organizations either work closely with B8 of Hope or are part of the pool supported by us. Meeting them on a regular basis and keeping a close collaborative approach is very important to us, so that we are able to assist when these organizations are met with challenges.

➤ May

May begun with a joint memorial ceremony - a dual affair taking place in parallel locations: Tel Aviv (Israel) and Beit Jalla (West Bank). B8 of hope co-sponsored this most inspiring peace event which Mehra on her side attended as part of her due diligence.

The event which took place on May 3rd brought a moment of union to both bereaved Israeli and Palestinian parents; a moment for them to mourn their loved ones together.

Although afar, the miracles of technology gave the impression to be in one and the same room as the people mourning on the other side. A total of 200 000 participants joined this hybrid ceremony, either in presence in Tel-Aviv and Beit Jalla or virtually through different channels (Zoom, Youtube and Facebook)

[Click here](#) if you have missed it.



From May 17th-19th, B8 of Hope hosted Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green from [Standing Together](#) for a series of fund-raising dinners. Standing Together is a grassroots people's movement which mobilizes and organizes Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel locally and nationally. They work on campaigning for peace, equality, and social justice in order to empower citizens of Israel and transform its society.



At B8 of Hope we know we are fighting the right fight : the only fight that makes sense. We try to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green stood together - representing the entire pool of B8 of Hope grantees (and not only their own movement). With bravery they presented and allowed us to join them from here (in Geneva) to STAND TOGETHER with them, behind them and in full support to an awe inspiring community of Israeli & Palestinian peace-builders.



We would like to thank our generous donors in Geneva for making it possible for B8 of hope to continue its support to the current pool of 20 + Israeli and Palestinian initiatives. Each initiative paves the path for a better shared future based on equal rights, peace and security for all in the region.



We are thrilled to have received the support and encouragement from our Arab friends across different Middle Eastern countries, from our Jewish friends whether Sephardic or Ashkenazi, from our International expats friends (ranging from Sweden to Ecuador including an exceptional Ukrainian donor who lives a conflict of her own and yet still finds time and place to support B8 of Hope) and last but not least from our Swiss friends.

Geneva is a rainbow of tolerance. During Standing Together's presence in Switzerland, and despite tragedies on the ground, we had a glimpse of hope. The message we all took home was powerful.

That said, the Palestinian and Israeli victims of the recent cycle of violence were in our thoughts throughout these functions. We can't imagine what their families are going through; our hearts and prayers were and are with them.

Sadly, this was a busy time for our grantee organization [Parents Circle Families Forum \(PCFF\)](#), an association of 600 + Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost a loved one to the conflict and work together. From gatherings in Israeli and Palestinians home to school presentations, they encourage others to choose reconciliation over revenge so that no other family faces the tragedy they have been facing. When cycles of violence take place, their role is even more essential and needed.

Robi Damelin, PCFF's spokesperson was invited to speak at the UN Security Council during their session on May 26. Please [click here](#) to watch her very powerful words.





Throughout May and June, we welcomed a new intern: Romane Caparros. Romane is a student of international relations at *ILERI – Institut Libre d’Etude des Relations internationales et des Sciences Politiques*. She has been contributing to the smooth running of and logistics of our various events such as our fundraising evenings and the stay of our visiting activists. She has been also in charge of parts of the tasks around the launch of our Mid-East Storytellers street exhibit in the old town of Geneva as well as the elaboration of our youth group “Next Gen” ’s internal new structure.



At the end of May, the experts of [Amal-Tikva](#) (a Jerusalem-based organization dedicated to capacity building for non-profits focused on peace-building) came to Geneva to helping us « rethink » B8 of Hope through their excellent Field building 360.

The exercise of redefining our goals and how to achieve them in a more efficient way was an eye opening experience! We are done with module 1 and looking forward to module 2 and the implementation of the changes we need to make.

➤ June

The highlight of June was our Street Exhibit in Promenade de Saint Antoine in the Old Town of Geneva! This exhibit featured the portraits of the Mid East Storytellers from June 1st to 19th, 2022.

The Mid East Storytellers' concept was launched in November 2020 by B8 of Hope, [Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#) and [Pendulum - Creative Changency](#). This inspiring collection of stories reflects the voices of Israelis and Palestinians, who are active members of grassroots and civil society initiatives on the ground, paving a path for a shared future based on equal rights, dignity and safety for all.

Passers-by could scan the QR codes at the bottom of each portrait and listen to each story and explore more pictures online! [Click here](#) to view the online platform.

In the evening of June 9th, B8 of Hope team gathered on site with members of B8 of Hope Next Gen youth group, in presence of Orson Ophir, our intern and talented graphic designer of this exhibit. [Click here](#) to see all the pictures of the event!



Happy Summer to all of you! And more news in September!

B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team

