



Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The last quarter of 2022 has been about journeys, in every sense of the word.

➤ A personal journey, through the lens of B8 of Hope

In October, Angela, one of B8 of Hope's most appreciated friends and supporters, joined our executive director on a trip to Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The short 48 hour trip allowed Angela to connect with 19 Palestinian and Israeli representatives of our grantee organizations and movements as well as Jean-Marc Liling, our board member and representative on the ground. This trip was particularly emotional for Angela as she has Palestinian roots but had never travelled to the region. Angela's belated father was from Haifa and parts of the family also have roots in Jerusalem. Like many Palestinians, Angela's father left for Lebanon in 1948, and never returned. Angela was born in Tripoli, Lebanon and grew up in the United Kingdom. Today, she lives in Geneva with her family. She has been supporting B8 of Hope for several years. However this trip has allowed her to see the many complexities of peace-building in Israel and Palestine and the challenges that our peace-builders have to navigate in order to fulfill their goal.

We are very grateful to Angela for her testimonial and we are deeply touched by her words:

"Dear Mehra,

I can't thank you enough for organising this experience for me.

I was energised by the inspirational people you took so much care to introduce me to. Each one of them (19 I think you said!) are extraordinary human beings - intelligent, empathetic, open and curious. I was astounded by them and their ability to turn their legitimate anger, frustration and injustice into peace activism after all they have been through and continue to suffer on a daily basis.

I am still processing everything I learnt in those short 48 hours. The physical proximity of the space (Israeli and Palestinian) live in together surprised me, the reality of the settlements surrounding Ali Abu Awwad's property was a shock, the myriad of rules of who is allowed where and when and the harsh consequences of not following them disgusted me. It's overwhelming and yet they (the peace activists) continue to have hope and strive with all their might for change. Meeting and talking with Israelis and, shock of all shocks, settlers (Israeli members of Judur-Shorashim-Roots), who know that they need and desire change was truly incredible. The physical geography of the landscape felt familiar as did the smells, some of the sounds and, of course, the food!

It was wonderful to see you in that environment. I can see why you yearn for it and why you have boundless passion for it, they love and admire you and you bring light and humour, while sharing their determination for change.

Please thank them all for me. I hope to meet them again and ask more questions next time.

All the best,

Angela "

Hopefully, more of these trips will be organized in the future for a whole group.

➤ A community-strengthening journey in the Alps

Mid October, B8 of Hope hosted the global staff of one of its most important partners [Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#) in one of our co-founders' residences in the French Alps.

ALLMEP is an international umbrella organization founded in 2006 and headquartered in Washington, DC. It supports 160+ member organizations with a variety of programs and services designed to scale their aggregated impact. Most of B8 of Hope grantee organizations and movements are ALLMEP members; therefore working in synergies with ALLMEP and comparing notes with them is essential for us.

After the separation and disruption of COVID-- and amid the continued violence and deterioration on the ground, this was the first time that the whole ALLMEP staff from the Middle East, US and Europe had the opportunity to pull back from the day-to-day pressures of this work and connect as a team, reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of this moment and to also have the quality time to brainstorm with B8 of Hope.

ALLMEP's membership has expanded rapidly in the last two years, as has their global team. But so have the challenges that our mutual community of peacebuilders seeks to overcome. We are incredibly happy to have hosted ALLMEP during a week in October. It allowed them to come together as a team, to hone their strategy, and to ensure that they deliver for our mutual community of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders at this critical time for everyone who cares about peace and equality.

Helping ALLMEP to have a long-overdue team retreat by providing them a place to gather helps our mutual beneficiaries.



The ALLMEP international team in Avoriaz, French Alps

➤ A Philanthropic journey for Geneva high-schoolers

In November, [Philanthropic Adventures](#), a Geneva based association partnered with B8 of Hope for the second time since 2020 around an educational workshop about peace philanthropy.

Philanthropic Adventures is a Swiss educational platform for young people to find information, inspiration and support to take action for social and environmental issues they care about. Philanthropic Adventures aims to democratize the concept of philanthropy and help young people define their engagement and bring change.

Philanthropic Adventures and B8 of Hope offered a (free of charge) in person workshop to a group of 12 Swiss high-schoolers (aged 15 to 17) from Ecole Internationale de Genève (Campus de la Grande-Boissière & La Chataigneraie), Ecole Moser, Institut Florimont and Collège Candolle.

The workshop (in the form of an after-school activity) took place over a month and half on Tuesdays November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and December 13th. The young participants learned about peace philanthropy and advocacy with different facilitators from B8 of Hope and Philanthropic Adventures. It was a journey towards peace-building through the lenses of B8 of Hope while learning the skills of philanthropy with Philanthropic Adventures.

Lets Talk about Peace

Learn about Peace Building in the Middle East with B8ofHope and use your time, skills and creativity to support MEET (Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow) a peace grassroots initiative.

Participate in a 5-sessions Workshop

Step 1: Lets Talk about Peace (1 session)
Meet B8ofHope and get a better understanding of their mission and Peace Building in the Middle East.

Step 2: Explore (2 sessions)
Meet a grassroots peace initiative, MEET, and evaluate projects.

Step 3: Act (2 sessions)
Learn how to fundraise in collaboration with A.Community.ch, and organise a fundraising event to support Peace.



Location
B8ofHope offices
Rte de Chêne 63



Ages
14-18



Dates
Tuesdays 5-7pm
From 01.11 to 13.12 2022



Takeaways
Projects Evaluation
Fundraising tools
Social awareness

For info and registration:
hello@philanthropicadventures.com

➤ **A journey all over Switzerland : Bassam and Rami, Palestinian and Israeli bereaved father's inspiring story reached many audiences**

On November 20th, we hosted the Palestinian and Israeli members of [Parents Circle Families Forum](#) : Bassam Aramin and Rami Elhanan, two bereaved fathers whose stories are featured in Irish author Colum McCann novel Apeirogon. Bassam and Rami were invited to a Swiss tour and promotion of the book by the Swiss association Ina Autra Senda. We were happy to accommodate these two extra-ordinary men during part of their stay in Switzerland.

[Listen to Bassam and Rami on the Swiss radio here.](#)

And if you are still looking for a Holiday good read – Colum Mc Cann's Apeirogon is a must read and can be bought in bookstores online and in Switzerland.



➤ **A crowd-funding journey across the globe**

After a first pilot edition in 2021, the end-of-year “Build Peace Campaign” was successfully launched in November. This “umbrella crowd-funding” experience was engineered by our amazing partner [Amal-Tikva](#) and supported by B8 of Hope.

Amal-Tikva is a Jerusalem based capacity-building entity which we work with regularly. Amal-Tikva enables our grantees to improve their governance and helps them improve their funding opportunities. Amal-Tikva also offers guidance on best practices for scalability, impact and sustainability. Many B8 of Hope grantees are alumni of the Amal-Tikva programs.

In the “Build Peace Campaign”, 15 leading Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, (which are Amal-Tikva program alumni and B8 of Hope grantees) joined forces under a common banner to raise funds together.

The campaign was shared across the globe and made it to the news ! [Click here to read the Jerusalem Post's piece](#) about this unique Amal-Tikva and B8 of Hope's initiative.

➤ A Journey to Washington DC

From December 3 to 6th, our executive director Mehra Rimer represented B8 of Hope at the [J Street](#) annual conference in Washington DC.

J Street is an organization working in the American political system and the American Jewish community to advocate for diplomacy-first American leadership and policies that advance justice, equality, peace, and democracy in Israel, in the wider region and in the United States as well.

The presence of B8 of Hope at the 2022 annual conference was essentially linked to the Mid East Storytellers exhibit which was featured there for 48 hours. The Mid East Storytellers exhibit was produced and created in partnership with ALLMEP. It was great to have many of the representatives of our mutual grantees and members join us for a nice “family” picture.



The following organizations supported by B8 of Hope were present at the J Street conference. They either had an information booth or a representative speaking in a panel :

[A Land for All](#), [Combatants for Peace](#), [Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#), [New Story Leadership](#), [Palestinian Internship Program](#), [Parents Circle Families Forum](#), [Physicians for Human Rights](#), [Roots - Judur - Shorashim](#), [Standing Together](#), [Taghyeer](#), [Tech2Peace](#) and [Women Wage Peace](#).

We are thrilled that the voices of these inspiring organizations were heard in such an important conference, in presence of more than 2000 attendees.

On the last day of the conference, His excellency the Swiss Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud in held a side event for B8 of Hope and the representatives of its grantee organizations present at J Street. The purpose of this gathering was for him to learn more about our work as a Swiss civil society organization supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace-building community.



Our partners from ALLMEP were also invited, as well as other diplomats and the newly appointed US Special Representative for Palestinian Affairs Hady Amr, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Megan Doherty – who is leading the strategy for the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act at USAID Middle East. We are very grateful to the Swiss embassy for giving this networking opportunity to our protégés.



That's all for now ! Bye Bye 2022 !

2023 is going to be a special year and we are very excited to finally have another gala !



B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team

