



Newsletter

May 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

B8 of Hope started off 2023 by planning and preparing for our big gala evening in March. Most of our winter was dedicated to the organization and logistics of the long awaited event.

However, a few interesting developments occurred throughout January - early March:

In early January, B8 of Hope's Executive Director Mehra Rimer and Director of Operations Chrystelle Thiébaud met with the Palestinian and Israeli participants of the [Tech2Peace Swiss seminar in Guggisberg](#) (Canton of Bern). The seminar was organized by [Stiftung Urgestein](#) and its very dynamic Chair of the board, Oliver Schneitter Ashton. This was the second edition of the Swiss seminar – supported by B8 of Hope and other Swiss partners.

Tech2Peace is one of B8 of Hope's grantee organizations. They offer high-tech and entrepreneurial training to young Palestinians and Israelis and alternate the training with dialogue sessions where hard discussions about respective narratives, challenges and beliefs lead to a better understanding of "the other side".

The work at Tech2Peace reminds us of a Nelson Mandela:

*"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy.
Then he becomes your partner".*



Credit Photo: Tech2Peace



B8 of Hope’s activities rely very much on volunteer work, in order to keep our costs in Geneva at a minimum. What would we do without their help ? Towards the end of the month, we hosted an informal festive evening gathering in honour of **our volunteers** and as a token of our deep gratitude for their on-going help.



While preparations for the gala were in full swing, B8 of Hope was consulted several times by friends/followers, journalists and high schools with regards to **tips about trips to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the West Bank** with the goal of having a dual narrative experience. As people keep consulting us for advice on trips to the region, we have started exploring the role of organizing potential trips.

The end of the winter was definitely full of action for the **Next Gen community!** Our two Next Gen ambassadors, Noa Golan and Yara Amayra, made us very proud!

Yara and Noa were invited to deliver a speech in the launch of the movement **Les Guerrières de la Paix** (The Warriors for Peace) in Essaouira, Morocco on the occasion of the International Women’s Rights Day. On that day, women and activists for peace from all over the world, Palestinians, Israelis, Liberians, Iranians, Afghans and more gathered to share a common call for peace and justice.



Credit photo: Guerrières de la Paix

Les Guerrières de la Paix is a global movement of Jewish and Muslim women for Peace, Justice and Equality, founded in March 2022 under the impetus of the documentary director and peace activist Hanna Assouline. The name of this association refers to [the eponymous documentary](#) featuring Yara and Noa, about Palestinian and Israeli women engaged in the [Women Wage Peace](#) movement, one of B8 of Hope’s grantees.

[Click here to read Yara and Noa’s speech](#)



And last but not least, **on March 16 we finally held our gala!** Since the creation of B8 of Hope, this was our third edition! We had wonderful Palestinian and Israeli keynote speakers, stand up comedians and artists: Obada Shtaya ([Zimam](#)) and Eran Nissan ([New Story Leadership](#)) moved us and inspired us, the comedians (Noam Shuster and Sammy Obeid) made us laugh about Israel and Palestine which is an achievement in itself! The singers and musicians of the [Jerusalem Youth Chorus](#) made the whole room (356 guests) sing with them, in Hebrew, Arabic and English.



To view the photos of the gala [click here](#).

To hear the individual speeches of Mehra Rimer, David Rimer and Eran Nissan please [click here](#).

We take this opportunity to thank our donors and all those who believe in our pro-peace message and mission.

Please [click here](#) to view our annual report (financial statements available upon request to hope@b8ofhope.org).

B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team

