Sadaka-Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership educates and empowers Jewish and Palestinian Israeli youth and university students to pursue social and political change through bi-national partnership.

Sadaka-Reut was founded in 1983 by a group of Jewish and Palestinian Israeli university students who shared the vision of a better future for both communities. Our grassroots dialogue and leadership development programs seek to address the deep-seated injustices caused by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and create a new generation of young activists promoting a shared, equal and just society.

We seek to provide our participating youth with adequate knowledge on the conflict and its history and the necessary tools and experience to engage in social and political change initiatives. We truly believe that youth and young adults have the capacity to influence and change the future of relations between Jews and Palestinians in Israel.

Through the years, Sadaka-Reut worked with thousands of youth and gained a strong reputation as an organization that has expertise both in bi-national political education and in youth activism. It is known as one of the few truly bi-national movements in Israel, and even more so as a genuine bi-national community that develops and nurtures activists with a shared political analysis and vision. We are proud to find our graduates involved in social and political change for many years of their lives, both at Sadaka-Reut and in other organizations and movements that promote similar values and goals.
We are proud to present you with the Sadaka-Reut Arab Jewish Youth Partnership 2014-2015 Annual Report. It represents the work carried out by our professional and motivated staff who inspire our participants and make it all possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them and our volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

We have begun this year after a violent summer that brought hard feelings of fear and hatred to our region once again. This influenced our work on several levels:

As always in times of escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, tensions between Palestinians and Jews tend to grow and this naturally affects us as a bi-national team. We continued to work individually and as a team to strengthen our partnership which presents an important alternative, especially during these times.

On a professional aspect, we focused our training on adequate tools which enabled the team to better work with youth and students in this racist and violent atmosphere.

Another aspect we found challenging was reaching out to Jewish participants and existing and new educational partners alike. Most were unwilling to deal with issues of conflict, racism and inequality within the Israeli society. At the same time, some teachers and schools approached us, sharing their fear and inability to confront in-class racism. Therefore, during the year we made efforts to make our workshops more relevant to participants and teachers current needs while keeping in line with our educational principles.

In this report we share our activities in light of the social political reality of the region, running through our activity cycle from September 2014 to August 2015. We feel it best reflects the vision of our work, which is closely linked to current events and connects the political reality to our theory of change.

We believe that changing the perceptions and attitudes of youth will be followed by behavioral change that will be manifested in their reality. We educate our youth seek more than their personal individual change, to challenge themselves to find partners with whom they can lead real changes in their communities and societies.

We are honored to share the journey that our participants and ourselves have taken during this activity year, and would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your partnership and support in Sadaka-Reut’s bi-national work towards a just, shared and equal society.

Yours,
Rawan Bisharat and Alon Shachar
Sadaka-Reut Co-Directors
August  Cease fire declared ending a war that killed over 2,000 residents of Gaza and 67 Israeli soldiers. The atmosphere within Israel is of fear, hatred and violence towards anything outside the consensus - the other, the leftist.

Sadaka-Reut staff, facilitators and interns during staff development training

"The training connected SR's vision to the work we do on the ground, developed the team and me personally, and gave me a more professional outlook on facilitation."
BCP Facilitator

September - October

Following a difficult summer, the Coordinators of Sadaka-Reut met for a whole week of preparation for the new activity year in August. Managers and staff led workshops that covered the pedagogical model of the organization and its Theory of Change, introduced monitoring and evaluation techniques, started the process of building a work plan for the year, and also gave time and space for political discussions. Starting off the year with an overview of the theories and models of SR helped staff understand better SR’s rationale and enabled them to develop their programs accordingly. Working in a bi-national team, the staff actively practiced SR’s bi-national partnership model by working together towards a common goal.

Staff development continued throughout the year and also included facilitators and interns. Sessions included skill building, creating theoretical groundwork, learning more about inequalities within Israeli society and building on the ability to facilitate group initiatives. The sessions faced head on the most challenging and controversial topics - the war in Gaza, religion, trauma, national elections, racism. By working through these topics as a staff, staff members were equipped to facilitate challenging dialogue sessions with participants.

Facilitation Training: Project Summary

- 29 Palestinian and Jewish Coordinators, Facilitators and interns
- 9-month long educational program
- Week-long year-start workshops
- 6 training days including experiential learning, lectures by external experts, political discussions and hands-on tools training
November

- Young Jews set fire to Yad B’yad, a bi-lingual school in Jerusalem, the symbol of co-existence.
- Four Jews praying at a synagogue in Har-Nof, Jerusalem, are killed by Palestinians.
- A Palestinian youth, Kheir Hamdan, is killed by police in Kafr Kanna. The incident was filmed and the video goes viral.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION:
LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

Community in Action is a volunteering and leadership development program for Palestinian and Jewish high school graduates and students aged 18-22. The participants volunteer in informal educational frameworks in Jaffa, mentoring Jewish and Palestinian children and youth of marginalized communities. With a rich educational process, the project creates a cadre of young committed, bi-national activists and leaders who have the tools, knowledge and capacity to promote social political change and the vision of a just society.

The Community in Action group went on its first seminar in Nazareth in November. Participants were engaged in team building activities, gained new knowledge about the city and its complexities, and prepared to begin their voluntary work with younger students of marginalized communities in Jaffa. Following their consolidation as a group, and affected by the police brutality coming to a peak with the killing of Kheir Hamdan, they decided to take action. Participants decided to protest, as a bi-national group, against the unequal way Palestinians and Jews are being perceived and treated by the other and by the state, which they called “the institutional violence against the Palestinian people”. The group produced fliers and stickers which they handed out to the public in Jaffa, stirring up conversations about the issue.
The Community in Action group was guided by our partners Zochrot on a “From Yaffo to Beirut" tour. From the centre to the north, they visited Arab villages that were destroyed during the Nakba and explored what is there now in its place. The participants had been learning about the Nakba through lectures and seminar, and the tour brought the experience to life, enabling them to connect to the history of the Palestinian people and even to their own family histories, on a deeper level. The tour inspired the participants to think about the importance of narratives in shaping our lives and societies and the role of story telling in developing our own identities and connecting to others. This experience was also profound for Jewish participants who were inspired to think about what remains hidden beneath the Jewish communities in which they were raised.

Community in Action: Project Summary

- 13 Palestinian and Jewish participants
- 9-months educational program of two days per week, three 3-day seminars and 4 tours
- 2 public outreach campaigns initiated and executed by participants
- 58 Palestinian and Jewish school children of marginalized communities in 3 local community centers tutored and mentored
- 1,650 hours of volunteering performed

It’s not enough for a person to do something for herself; it’s important that she will also act for others and for her community all the time”.

Community in Action participant

January

Police shoot another young Palestinian, Sami al-Ja’ar, in Rahat. Police brutality set off protests all over Palestinian society.

Sadaka-Reut team members took an active part in protests and demonstrations. At the same time, they continued supporting participants and graduates over the phone, online and face-to-face.
In January, the participants of Partners in Shaping Reality spent a weekend together at Neve Shalom/Wahat as-Salam, a cooperative Jewish-Palestinian village. They started the seminar by visiting Yad B’yad, a bi-lingual school in Jerusalem that had recently been victim to an arson attack that included writing racist slurs all over the building. This unique school introduced the participants to a different model of bilingual and bi-national partnership that starts at a young age. The participants engaged with representatives of the school, especially around the idea of identity in a bi-national space. At Neve Shalom they met with representatives of the bi-national community and discussed the many facets of living in such a community such as religion, identity, army service. They also continued to discuss the educational models needed in a bi-national setting. Along with reflecting on these experiences and bonding as a group, participants applied what they learned to the current Israeli political environment in light of the upcoming elections. Participants researched and discussed how political parties’ platforms outline their perspectives on bi-national partnerships. They then had to create their own platform of bi-national partnership and participate in a panel where they defended their bi-national vision and rationale.
BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE: LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS

The Building a Culture of Peace project is a unique initiative that seeks to raise a generation of young people who are socially and politically aware and involved in their communities. Aged 14-17, most of the youth come from socially disadvantaged and politically marginalized communities. The goal of the project is to encourage youth to critically examine injustices and racism, and to initiate and participate in efforts to secure social and political change. The long-term program includes participation in local youth groups, attendance at bi-national activities that allow for constructive and respectful encounters between young Palestinians and Jews, and engagement in local activism.

One month before developing their outreach initiatives, participants attended a day full of workshops on how to translate their work within their groups into action. The goal of the day was for participants to learn more about local activism, dip their toes into taking action and inspire the groups to start planning their own local initiatives. After a group bonding activity, participants met alumni of Sadaka-Reut who told them about their activism and campaigns. Participants then split up into their local groups to brainstorm ideas for local initiatives that they would soon bring to fruition. The day ended with facilitators of the groups performing a scene using the method of “Theatre of the Oppressed” as one possible idea for an impactful local initiative.

Palestinian youth groups were in operation in Jaffa, Lyd/Lod, Taybe and Kafr Qasim.

Following the summer war and continued tensions, we were unable to recruit and maintain enough Jewish participants to open youth groups. Only in May two local youth groups were opened in Jaffa and Netanya (instead of the four planned), which continued activities throughout the summer months.

A bi-national group of 2nd-year participants from Netanya, Kafr Qasim and Qalanswa was also operating!

FEBRUARY - MARCH

Local Youth Groups:
- 77 Palestinian and Jewish youth
- 6 Local groups
- 1 bi-national group
- 15-session educational program including 2 un-national regional days and 1 weekend seminar
- 5 public outreach initiative initiated and executed by participants
The Building a Culture of Peace project also has a short-term component. Partnering with schools, we facilitate a series of 4 workshops to 14-17 year old students. Exposed to social and political content, they became intrigued enough to critically examine reality and engage in social change. Participants reported on how important the activity was for them and mentioned that it also gave them dialogue skills, an unexpected outcome. Almost half of the Jewish participants and almost three-quarters of the Palestinian participants asked to take part in a long-term group, if one should open in their school.

**March**

National elections brought out the racist attitudes of the Jewish parties, with Netanyahu's infamous video ("Arab voters are heading to the polling stations in droves... Left-wing NGOs are bringing them in buses"). The Arab parties and the only Arab-Jewish party united, becoming the third largest party in the new Knesset. A right wing coalition formed the new government.

Prior to the elections, most SR groups had sessions in which they discussed the different parties and their platforms. Following their request, the *Community in Action* group invited several party activists to discuss politics with the group.

As the year progressed, we shifted focus to partnering with Jewish schools, where we facilitated short-term workshops. We were approached by teachers who saw racism and hate in the classroom, but didn’t know how to confront it. Our activities with these schools included workshops and tours for students, as well as training for teachers and youth guides.

**MARCH - APRIL**

**School Workshops:**
- 696 Palestinian and Jewish high-school students
- 173 workshops
- 15 schools and other educational partners

"We learn here about what's going on around us."
"We don't have anyone else to speak to about these issues."
"In order to change something we have to make our voices heard."

BCP participants

**Participants of the bi-national group during an activity**

**High-school students during an ad-busting workshop**

High-school students during an ad-busting workshop
After learning about the Nakba through texts, films, tours and personal family stories, and by working in uni-national and bi-national groups to better understand their intersecting identities, participants of Community in Action decided to create a short film about their family stories of the Nakba and how it affects them. Participants interviewed their grandparents who were living in Israel-Palestine in 1948 and shared their stories with the group. Together, they created a film where they shared these testimonies in the place their grandparents lived prior to the Nakba. The group supported each other throughout the process of making the film and created a product ready to be shared with the world.

Social protests led by the Ethiopian-Israeli (Jewish) community were sparked in May following a taped and publicized incident of police brutality against an Ethiopian-Israeli man. The Partners in Shaping Reality bi-national Action group reached out to Ethiopian-Israeli activists on campus and planned the protest in tandem. This was the only protest at Tel Aviv University aimed at voicing the struggles of the Ethiopian-Israeli community. Connecting between different forms of oppression and recognizing its mechanisms is a difficult exercise in a society that constantly separates different populations and thwarts attempts at solidarity by perpetuating fear and hatred. However, the group was able to highlight practices by which both Palestinian and Ethiopian-Israeli communities are discriminated against. The sign on the right reads: “A good Arab knows well what police brutality is and therefore calls to end all violence”.

Watch the film Third Generation of the Nakba here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGKG5uF1IHA
For the Building a Culture of Peace group in Taybeh, gender in Palestinian society was an issue that arose again and again throughout the year. Girls expressed that they felt unimportant and marginalized in their own society. They shared this feeling with the community by creating an online campaign about the use of masculine language in their dialect to describe both men and women. The campaign gained hundreds of likes and shares, reaching thousands on Facebook.

As the educational process progressed, boys in the group expressed that at a very young age they were urged to feel responsible over family members and were not given the time and space to be children. After being trained at Theatre of the Oppressed as a tool for social change, the group decided to create their own performance to highlight the inequality of gender roles and to invite community members into a public dialogue about gender. Working with a local actor to write their own scripts, they chose to perform their play in a public space. A formal meeting with their school headmaster followed, where the group convinced him to give his blessing to their action while learning about messaging and negotiation. The play included an inversion of gender roles, with women working outside the house and men cleaning, and asked the audience - town residents - to participate by signing a contract expressing that they believe in gender equality. The group also designed and distributed the stickers depicted here.

Left - Palestinian Jaffa group’s initiative was to advocate against religion-based racism by awarding religion-based racism-free business certificates in the city.
The photography training workshop hosted by Sadaka-Reut is part of an international cooperation with organizations from Chechenia, the Netherlands and Belgium. Every year the partners hold a joint training for staff and volunteers to equip them with new creative tools for social change. This international relationship deepens every year and helps the organizations to see the connections between social change justice movements all over the world.

This year the training was about photography as a tool for social change. The training was facilitated by the photography collective ActiveStills, whose founding members also include alumni of SR. Staff learned technical photography skills and terminology, practiced taking portraits and shooting short videos using stop-motion techniques. They also discussed the ethics of photography and the role that the photographer takes upon herself. Finally, staff learned about the history of photography as a tool for social change and watched and analyzed numerous photos and exhibitions on different issues such as the occupation, refugees, public housing and many more. As a final project, they experienced curating an exhibition which was displayed in their guest house in downtown Haifa and later in Belgium. Over the past years and as in the case of the Ethiopian-Israeli social protests, we have all seen the strength of videos and photos in the social media in promoting awareness for injustices and even for mobilizing people to action. This training provided staff members with skills to maximize social change messages through their photographs. These skills will be passed on to the youth participants of Sadaka-Reut in the coming years, who will use them in their initiatives.

ActiveStills photos are available to civil society organisations and news agencies. Visit their website at [http://www.activestills.org/](http://www.activestills.org/).

**July—August**  
The Dawabshe family house in the West Bank was torched by Jews, leading to the death of baby Ahmed, father Saed and mother Reem. A few days later an ultra-orthodox Jew stabbed 6 people during the Jerusalem Pride parade, killing 16 years-old Shira Banki. Following the two events, protests erupt throughout Palestine and Israel.
10 Staff members
19 Facilitators and interns
30 Educational partners
58 Participants aged 7-16 in afterschool clubs
130 Participants aged 14-26 in long-term groups
696 Participants aged 14-17 in short-term workshops

12 Public outreach campaigns and initiatives developed and implemented by participants, reaching hundreds of people in their local communities

Activities held by the academic year, from September to August, through 3 Projects:
- Building a Culture of Peace
- Community in Action
- Partners in Shaping Reality

Sadaka-Reut’s staff, volunteers and participants are female and male, Palestinian, Druze, Armenian, Jewish, Christian and Muslim
Our work will not be possible without the inspired, dedicated and generous people who work, volunteer, partner and support us individually and organizationally all over the world. We would like to thank them, and recognise our donors:

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For **a UK tax deduction,** please **make out a cheque** to the New Israel Fund, write on the memo line/attach a note that the cheque is for Sadaka-Reut Arab-Jewish Youth Partnership - NIF ID 5805. The minimum donation accepted by NIF (UK) is of £70.
Please post the cheque to New Israel Fund, 26 Enford Street, London W1H 2DD, UK.

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For further inquiries please contact us at info@reutsadaka.org
Tel/Fax: +972 (0)3 5182336
35 Shivtey Israel St.
POB 8523
Jaffa 6108401, ISRAEL

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