On behalf of our staff, we are proud to present to you the Sadaka Reut – Arab Jewish Youth Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018.

For the past year, Rawan Bisharat acted as the organisation’s sole co-director while the board prepared to select a new co-director. The conclusion was that someone with experience from within the organisation would be the most suitable candidate, and so an internal recruitment process was implemented. We are pleased to announce that Dina Gardashkin was selected to act as the new co-director, alongside Rawan. Dina joined Sadaka-Reut six years ago as a participant in the Partners in Shaping Reality program, became a facilitator in our Building a Culture of Peace program, and from 2015 to 2018 acted as a co-coordinator of the Community in Action program.

We are both excited to begin this year together and look forward to embark on our new path as partners.

Like previous years, this past year at Sadaka-Reut held many challenges and opportunities. It was full of activities, learning experiences, and growth. Like every year, we sought to expand our repertoire of creative methods which we use to address the challenges that the unstable political reality brings to our doorstep, and which deeply affect our staff, participants and community. Spring this year brought with it a wave of country-wide protests. While Jaffa’s clock tower square filled with demonstrations against the killing of Gazan civilians and despite the sense of desperation that filled the air, our staff worked tirelessly in order to make sure that our youth and community received all the support they needed. Soon afterwards, empowered by the latest surge of fear and hatred, the Nation-State Law was legislated. This legislation de-legitimises the Arabic language and Palestinian national identity, further alienating the possibility of equality and bi-national partnership.

When dealing with such issues, our method is to address them in our groups. We process things together, allowing room for the expression of thoughts and emotions, while thinking of ways to turn anger and frustration into hope and action. In response to current events, we held discussions with our staff, participants and alumni, which highlighted the importance of safe spaces, where we are able to remind ourselves that we are not alone in the struggle.

Based on that understanding, we will be holding an alumni and community conference in December, where we will focus on the isolation that many of us feel in our societies and try to regain inspiration from each other’s work and experience. The conference will be the peak event of our Alumni Project, which we have developed during the past year.

In the next year, we plan to continue and strengthen our connections with our community and graduates. We are currently working on the development of three board games in collaboration with alumni representatives. We are also on the verge of releasing a booklet for “Walking in Jaffa’s Shoes”, our Jaffa tour, which will further establish our work in emphasising the unspoken narrative of Jaffa, and facilitate access to the knowledge that we share with our participants.

In light of current events, we are planning on joining the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Affairs in their initiative to highlight the Arabic language in schools, and intend on making it our primary topic in our activism efforts.

Furthermore, while writing this report, we are expecting to receive the results of the external evaluation conducted on our long-term youth groups in the Building a Culture of Peace program, which will offer us invaluable insights into the impact that our uni-national and bi-national processes have on our participants.

Despite the many challenges we have faced, we are pleased to report on what has overall been a fruitful year in our projects, which resulted in creative and bold initiatives. We are very proud of the hard work of our staff, and are grateful for the lessons we learn from our participants, and the crucial support of our partners. The engagement and commitment of all those involved continue to prove to us that our work is necessary and worthwhile.

Yours in Solidarity,
Rawan and Dina
Sadaka-Reut was established in 1983. Our grassroots dialogue and leadership development programs seek to address the deep-seated injustices caused by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by educating and empowering Palestinian and Jewish youth in Israel to pursue social and political change through bi-national partnership. We create a new generation of young activists promoting a shared society based on equality, solidarity, and justice. Over the past decade, 6,000 youth took part in our programs; we have trained over 100 facilitators, who now use our approach as a tool for social change with hundreds of young people at Sadaka-Reut and other organizations. Hundreds of our graduates are active in social change movements and organizations.

**Introducing the New Logo**

In recent years, Sadaka-Reut’s main target group is Palestinian and Jewish youth and young adults of marginalised communities, under the belief that education, solidarity and joint struggles are the way to lead critical change and conflict transformation in the region. Accordingly, our first educational conference, “Identity: from Margins to Mainstreams”, which took place in October, centred on ways to bring the voices of marginalised groups to the centre, and incorporate them into classrooms.

Inspired by this concept, and as Sadaka-Reut concludes its 35th year of bi-national education, we are happy to present our new logo, which reflects our organisation’s values, educational approach, and vision for society. The multi-coloured star is a symbol of our commitment to working with different groups that are often marginalised in other frameworks. Its centre represents a focal point, at which these identities meet and are able to produce a force larger than the sum of its parts.

This model is duplicated once and again in each of our programs, empowering communities and inspiring connections that promote long-term societal change based on the principles of justice and equality. Like our growing community of participants, staff, and graduates, the new logo echoes years of critical education and joint struggles, which lie at the heart of our work and shared hope for a better future.

**Things we did this year**

**October 2017**: Sadaka-Reut’s educational conference “Identity: from Margins to Mainstreams”, was held at the Arab Jewish Community Centre in Jaffa with a turnout of over 100 people, including 40 teachers and educators. The conference’s program included short lectures about bi-lingual education and the implications of tracking in education; a presentation of Sadaka-Reut’s educational model; a panel with teachers, civil society and government representatives; and discussion circles led by our alumni and friends.

At the end of the conference, attendees received a booklet we prepared for educators with ideas and workshops that can be used to introduce social and political concepts in the classroom.

**October 2017**: Received a Certificate of Appreciation from football player and activist Imaye Taga at the launch event of “Players for Social Responsibility” - an innovative project that features leading Israeli football figures working for equality, tolerance and coexistence in Israel.

**October-November 2017**: Six Sadaka-Reut staff members received training in Playback Theatre in the Netherlands. The training was a product of our partnership with the organisations Pax Christi, PLEK, and CINTEM, aimed at sharing tools for education and activism, and learning from the experience of each organisation in dealing with situations of ethnic, racial, and national conflicts.

**February, 2018**: Around 40 people attended Sadaka-Reut’s first community event of the year at our office in Jaffa. We hosted Dr. Yonatan (Yoni) Mendel, who led an open conversation about language, politics, and conflict.

**March 2018**: Launched the new logo

**May 2018**: Sadaka-Reut staff embarked on an educational day trip to Ma’alul, an uprooted Palestinian village in the Lower Galilee area, where we heard from Rawan Bisharat, Sadaka-Reut’s co-director and an internally displaced person from the village, about its history and the inability of the people of Ma’alul to return to their lands.

**May 2018**: An interview conducted in commemoration of the Nakba with Sadaka-Reut’s co-director Rawan Bisharat, was published on page 2 of the daily German paper Junge Welt (Young World) and on the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung’s website.

**May 2018**: A second community event was held in partnership with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung on the day of Commemoration of the Nakba. It featured a screening of the film Born in Deir Yassin, and a lecture from Adan Tzour, a law student and Sadaka-Reut graduate, about her research on memories from the Nakbas as depicted by women affected with Alzheimer’s disease.

**May 2018**: Sadaka-Reut graduates and staff organised a spontaneous protest in Jaffa following the murder of two Palestinian sisters who were murdered by their own brother, adding to a growing number of Palestinian women murdered by their male relatives. The protest was directed at Israeli police, as well as Palestinian and Jewish societies, for turning a blind eye to this phenomenon.

**June 2018**: An interview with Rawan Bisharat about the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality’s neglect of Jaffa from 1948 to this day was included in an extensive piece in the Haaretz newspaper, which is circulated widely in Israel.

**July 2018**: Dina Gardashkin, as co-coordinator of the Community in Action project, wrote to Canadian Magazine Montreal Serai about Sadaka-Reut’s work in Jaffa, and the challenges and achievements of the Community in Action program in a violent society at times of escalation.

**Arabic classes**: Since January 2018, weekly Arabic classes are taught at our office for the Jewish staff members by Mimas Ahmed, co-coordinator of Building a Culture of Peace. This new and unique program grew out of the realisation that in our bi-national, bi-lingual office that aspires for equality, there is value in all staff members understanding and speaking in each other’s mother tongues. Since the Palestinian staff members already speak Hebrew, which is a necessity in Israel as the dominant language of the public sphere, it is the responsibility of our Jewish members to continue to improve on their Arabic language skills.
Our Model

Uni-national and Bi-national
The incorporation of both settings is based on the understanding that in order to promote a shared society, each group of Jewish and Palestinian participants first needs to recognise and address challenges within their own societies and communities. The uni-national setting provides the safe, open space where participants can discuss issues unique to their identity group. The bi-national setting provides a framework for the groups to meet “the other,” by becoming acquainted with their culture, opinions, and reality. By doing so, we aim to promote youths’ belief in partnership and motivate them to utilise bi-national partnership as a tool for social change.

Critical Education
In order to empower youth to become responsible social agents who understand the challenges of the society they live in, and are passionate about addressing those challenges, Sadaka-Reut endorses education as a tool to change society. With this in mind, we seek to instil in youth the knowledge and the tools for examining their surroundings critically, challenging rigid conflict narratives and ongoing injustices. Re-examining and challenging the status quo gives participants the means to offer ideas for alternative political and social structures that would give rise to a more just and equal reality.

From Personal Transformation to Activism
Experience on the ground is the best way to learn and internalise the change in attitudes the youth go through over the course of their work with Sadaka-Reut. Thus, the actual production of social and political initiatives play a vital role in all of Sadaka-Reut’s educational programs, instilling youth with confidence in their ability to be change-makers in society. Youth are trained to connect their personal individual narratives with the social and political structures endemic to Israeli society. Our facilitators encourage youth to act locally within their communities, and to understand how to connect these problems to the larger political context, thereby combining the personal, social and political in a strong, meaningful way.

Sadaka-Reut’s theory of change encompasses the process of transformation the participants go through. It begins from the individual-personal level, continues on the relational level as partnership continues to develop in shared spaces, and concludes in the cultural level, widening the circles of influence as they carry on the Sadaka-Reut model wherever they go in life— from their own families and communities and to the wider society.
Building a Culture of Peace (BCP) is a youth-focused project that seeks to raise a generation of young people who are socially and politically aware and involved in their local communities. Every year, some 500 Jewish and Palestinian youths, aged 14-17, participate in the project. Most of the youth come from disadvantaged and socio-politically excluded communities. The goal of the project is to encourage the youth to critically examine reality, identify injustices, and initiate as well as participate in efforts to promote social and political change.

The view from the margins

While living in separate towns and neighbourhoods, Jewish and Palestinian youth in Israel are regularly exposed to divisive rhetoric used by elected representatives and mainstream media outlets. Unfortunately, such rhetoric is also present within educational institutions, where youth spend the vast majority of their time and begin to form perceptions which then carry into adulthood. This discourse, combined with geo-political divides, creates a situation where youth rarely get to interact with those of different ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic status in meaningful ways. At the same time, the atmosphere of separation and fear often discourages them from seeking alternative knowledge, challenging common sentiments, and establishing opinions that deviate from the mainstream. Little space is created for youth to be able to recognise and connect between different types of oppression and identities. This holds true especially for more marginalised communities, which generally have less access to extra-curricular activities in general and bi-national dialogue and social action in particular.

Meanwhile, discriminatory government legislation continues to contribute to the exclusion of Palestinian citizens from Israeli society through de-legitimisation and denial of their equal citizenship rights. Following riots in the Wadi Ara region in response to Donald Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in December 2017, Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said that the region’s Arab residents “do not belong to the State of Israel” and should be boycotted. In July, the Jewish nation-state bill, which legally presents Jewish values and identity as the state character of Israel, was finally approved and passed as a Basic Law. According to the law, Hebrew is recognised as the only official language in Israel, which could have implications on the presence of the Arabic language in public spaces. Other governmental legislation has attempted to narrow the few spaces in which youth are encouraged to think critically about their reality. In July, following threats from the Minister of Education directed towards NGOs exposing students to critical perspectives at schools, the Israeli Knesset approved a law which prevents Left-wing NGOs deemed to be acting against the IDF from accessing schools and speaking to students.

What we’re doing about it

In our long-term program, we start by meeting with youth close to their homes, in their own neighbourhoods, with the belief that any societal change must begin at the individual level and spiral outwards from there. This year, six local groups completed the long-term program, three Palestinian groups - in Tayibe, Ramle, and Qalansawe - and three Jewish groups - in Bat Yam and Holon (two different age groups).

Our trained facilitators meet with local youth groups in community centres and schools throughout central Israel and begin the conversation by becoming familiar with the youth’s own experiences and perspectives about their reality and surroundings. In a series of 15 workshops, each group goes through a process that begins from developing awareness of one’s surroundings and place in society, and continues with developing a sense of caring and responsibility. Meanwhile, participants are encouraged to seek alternative knowledge, either based on their own life experiences and those of their family members, or other diverse sources. Once group participants have developed a sense of responsibility for social and political issues, they learn about some of the tools available to civil society actors wishing to lead social change. As a final step, participants develop and implement their own social initiatives, and conclude the program with a comprehensive analysis of the process, including challenges, successes, and lessons for future actions.

85 Palestinian and Jewish youth participants
6 local groups
15 session educational program including 1 weekend seminar and 2 facilitated bi-national encounters
4 public outreach initiatives

The BCP long-term program is a blend of personal and bi-national dialogue and social action in particular. The program includes a series of 15 workshops, each group goes through a process that begins from developing awareness of one’s surroundings and place in society, and continues with developing a sense of caring and responsibility. At the end of the year, all groups in a joint activity, in order to celebrate the project’s completion and expose one another to relevant social struggles. Additionally, a new cross-national component was introduced this year to the long-term groups, where staff members of the ‘other’ identity participated in workshops with youth groups in order to enrich their understanding and offer them the opportunity to ask questions about an identity that is otherwise left unfamiliar.
Alumni story
Najd Hadi

Age: 15.5 years old
Place of residence: Tayibe
Program: Building a Culture of Peace, 2017-18
Current Occupation: grade 10 student at al-Majd Atid High School, majoring in Biology and Psychology-Sociology

“The project Coordinator and facilitator came to our school and told us about the project. I thought it sounded interesting and signed up. We had to go through a selection workshop (because many students signed up and they couldn’t take everyone), and I was selected to be part of the group. The selection workshop was really exciting for me and made me want to become a part of the program. I especially notice that today I spot racism more clearly. I used to be the kind of person who would tell people who experience racism that they deserved it or must have done something wrong, but now I understand it isn’t true, and that it’s called racism. I didn’t know that in the USA white people are racist towards black people, and thought that this phenomenon only exists here. In fact, I understood that this is something that exists all over the world, and when the facilitator discussed it in depth we were able to see the bigger picture. I used to be very cynical about reality, but putting the correct terms and labels on things helped me understand that there are broader issues at play here. I’m sure I’ll keep on being active, now that I look at everyday life in a much more critical way.”

Initiatives

The Price of Gun Violence
Qalansawe
Our local Palestinian youth group in Qalansawe found the increasing number of violent incidents and fatal shootings in their city very disturbing, leading them to make a video in order to raise awareness of the issue. Through the video, they show the cruelty of the situation and voice a striking social critique on an environment where “pulling the trigger has become easy.”

Breaking Down the Walls of Fear
Holon
One of the Jewish youth groups in Holon initiated a touching stop-motion video dealing with power dynamics between them as youth and the adults in their lives, such as parents and teachers. In their own words and in first-person voice, they address the world of adults and ask to “break down the walls of fear” surrounding them in order to grow and be able to develop in a freer and fairer world.

Ignoring Racism does not Make It Go Away
Tayibe
In the group’s first meetings, the issue of racism came up and its existence among Arab Palestinians was debated. While some group members claimed there was no racism among Arabs of darker and lighter skin, this concept was explored and developed throughout the year as one of the participants shared her personal experiences of racism. The group decided to create a video to address this issue, and presented it to all the classes in their school in Tayibe.

Putting Women at the Front
Holon
The issue of gender appeared early on in the process of the second, younger group in Holon which consisted only of female participants. At first, they were very cynical about gender as a factor influencing power dynamics, but gradually began generating insights about the exclusion of women from the public sphere, the reasons for the absence of women from key positions, and its implications. For their initiative, which focused on the potential of women as leaders, they prepared a display at the Neot Rachel Community Centre featuring five local women who were chosen by them as inspirational leaders.

In the words of our partners
Samira Assi, Teacher and coordinator at the Orthodox High School in Ramle, students from which have participated in Sadaka-Reut’s long-term groups, says:

“Before participating in the program, we identified a need to raise awareness among the students in our school and expose them to political, social and gender issues. We view our partnership with Sadaka-Reut and the process these teenagers are going through as crucial, in order to let the students discover their individual identities. The change we see in them during the process and afterwards is gradual and the members of the Sadaka-Reut youth groups demonstrate political awareness and intelligent maturity. Following their participation in the program, their attention to social issues and their critical thinking abilities are enhanced, they become stronger and more determined, and refuse to take things as granted.”

The Qalansawe group hosting Yuval- a Jewish facilitator, and getting to know the other participants of the Palestinian groups during their seminar.
Pedagogical development and school workshops

One of the long-term goals of Building a Culture of Peace is to inspire actors within the formal education system in Israel to foster educational environments that promote critical and democratic thought, to address social and political problems, and to increase their capacity to do so. In addition to our long-term groups, we are often approached by educators in Israeli high-schools who feel the need to enrich their students’ learning experience in the classroom. For this purpose, we offer a series of four workshops for Palestinian, Jewish and mixed classrooms. They cover a range of topics relevant to core societal issues, such as group identities and existing inequalities, and are regularly updated to take into account current events, such as racist incidents or larger-scale conflicts. This year, such sessions were implemented in Jewish, Palestinian and mixed schools, as were individual workshops focused on specific subjects that were tailored according to the schools’ specific needs. In additional to the school workshops, we have continued to develop Sadaka-Reut’s unique pedagogical database, which includes suggested activities, workshops, and methods for educators.

Initiative

Communicating a Culture of Peace Modi’in

Although social initiatives are not included as a regular part of the short-term program because of time constraints, we had an unexpected outcome this year with a group of students that went through our workshops at a Jewish High School in Modi’in during the time of the Gazan Great March of Return. Using the tools provided by the Sadaka-Reut facilitator, the students had the opportunity to discuss the situation in Gaza and the people protesting against it, and examine it more critically than shown in Israeli mainstream media. As a result, they were inspired to send back a message of hope and to promote peace in the face of separation. The youth wrote letters expressing their wish to open a direct and peaceful channel of communication between teenagers in Israel and Gaza and filmed themselves reading the letters in order to spread the message further.

In the words of our partners

Inbal Rahat, Teacher and Coordinator at the Ort Geula High School in Tel Aviv, where Sadaka-Reut has facilitated short-term workshops for several years, says:

“Our school’s student body is very diverse – Jews, Arabs, children of refugees and of migrant workers, deaf students, hearing students, etc. We have been inviting Sadaka-Reut to give workshops at the school for several years, as we see great importance in it. During the workshops given by Sadaka-Reut facilitators last year our students were exposed to ideas and terms such as equal opportunity, power relations in society and social activism, as well as additional terms and ideas that provoked discussion and thought among the students about social injustices and their ability to act upon and influence them. All workshops were led by two facilitators, an Arab and a Jewish one. We’ve found this setting significant for the success of the workshops. During these workshops, the students went through experiences that demonstrate, through various tasks and games, ideas and terms concerning these issues, and led to interesting and constructive discussions.

The discussion in the group allowed the students to openly talk about their sense of not fully belonging, which they feel at times, as well as social disparities they see in Israeli society. The deaf student group led a fascinating discussion about the gaps and differences between deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and from there the discussion went on to the feelings of deprivation that many of the hard-of-hearing Arabs feel. It was an important, thought provoking discussion.

During the workshops, we’ve encountered a rather distraught reaction by one the Arab students’ father, who disapproved of this activity dealing with social inequalities, claiming that all of his life he strived to integrate and blur the differences and objected the idea of his son being explicitly exposed to them.

After a conversation we’ve had with that parent, with more workshops in sight, we will make sure to share with the students’ parents and update them about the workshops and the issues they deal with.

We thank Sadaka-Reut for cooperating and consulting with us, and would be happy to continue this cooperation, dealing with these important issues, in the years to come.”
I’m a Player
South Tel Aviv

As a part of the joint project with the Garden Library, a girls’ football group, who had been attending the Library’s activities for several years, met with a Sadaka-Reut facilitator for workshops around issues of gender power dynamics (including how these are manifested in fashion, sports, and music) and finally, activism. To sum up the whole process and celebrate reaching second place in a football tournament, the girls had the slogan “I’m a player” printed on backpacks, alongside a unique design made especially for their team.

Partnership with the Garden Library
Sadaka-Reut’s partnership with the Garden Library, which provides a safe space for migrant children at the heart the Neve Sha’anan neighbourhood in South Tel Aviv, grew out of the recognised need to train migrant youth and families to advocate for their rights and make their voices heard on the local and national levels. This need has become even more urgent this year, after a government announcement threatened the deportation of some 40,000 asylum seekers. The announcement was followed by a public backlash and the plan’s eventual withdrawal, which demonstrated the potential power the community of asylum-seekers and South Tel Aviv residents hold in influencing their situation. While the process that our facilitators implement with the groups at the Garden Library follows the same rationale and theory of change as our other programs, the work with its participants is unique as it challenges us to stretch our model beyond its bi-national scope. Nonetheless, this experience has shown success as participants were able to draw connections between their personal experiences of “otherness” and major cleavages and inequalities in society at large. This year’s girl group went through a transformative experience where they were able to connect between their personal struggle to open a girls’ football team at the Garden Library, and other women’s struggles around the world that were successful despite the structures and social mechanisms that stood in their way. The other group, which was active during the summer months, creatively learned about social issues through films, and completed the program with a nuanced understanding of the links between identity and society.

Initiative

Garden Library participants with bags they designed at a printing workshop
Community in Action (CIA) is a volunteering and leadership development project for young Palestinian and Jewish high school graduates and university students. Each year, it creates a bi-national cadre of young committed activists and leaders who have the tools, knowledge and capacity to promote socio-political change towards a more just and equal society.

15 participants
7 Jewish, 7 Palestinian, 1 mixed; 12 female, 3 male

32 weeks of 3 volunteering days and 1 learning day per week

2 weekend seminars and 4 tours

2 public initiatives planned and implemented by the participants

4,556 total hours volunteering with 128 Palestinian and Jewish children in 5 local schools

The view from the margins
Jaffa, a mixed city, manifests many of the symptoms associated with a divided society. Members of various groups, many of which have suffered from long-standing oppression by the Israeli authorities, reside in different neighbourhoods, attend separate schools, speak different languages and have distinct cultures, with little to no interaction taking place between them. Although most Jaffa residents come from similar socio-economic backgrounds and share many common struggles - such as governmental and municipal discrimination, racism and neglect - fear, alienation and hostility are still prominent between the Palestinian and Jewish residents. On the municipal level, the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality deducts fewer resources to Jaffa, favouring the more affluent residents of the Northern Tel Aviv neighbourhoods. While about a third of Jaffa’s residents are Palestinian Arabs, they constitute a considerably smaller percentage of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa population, and therefore do not hold significant electoral power in municipal politics.

Socio-economic differences between the South and North of Tel Aviv also contribute to the fact that students from the South, including Jaffa, are three times as likely to drop out of a school as in North Tel Aviv. The Jaffa public education system directly suffers as a result of systemic neglect, and access to education remains limited. The public option for Palestinian youth is either study at local Arab schools, which generally suffer from lower quality of education, or rather attend secular Jewish schools in Jaffa, which have more educational resources and are considered more reputable. Many Christian and Muslim residents who can afford resources and are considered more reputable. Many Christian and Muslim residents who can afford

What we're doing about it
As a bi-national educational NGO operating in and from Jaffa, Sadaka-Reut works with local educational partners through our Community in Action program. Palestinian and Jewish High-School graduates meet on a regular basis throughout the year for joint learning days and volunteering as tutors at local schools. This is the second year that the project has been implemented in cooperation with our partners at the Arab-Jewish Centre for Empowerment, Equality, and Cooperation (AJECC) and the Israeli Scouts through which the seven Jewish participants were recruited. The rest of the participants, except for one from Jerusalem with resident status, were recruited from the Jaffa community.

The program consisted of one learning day and three days of volunteering per week. For the Palestinian participants from Jaffa, this was a chance to return to the local education system as grown-ups, and contribute to their community from the critical knowledge and life experiences they have gained. The Jewish participants, who spent the year in Jaffa, got the opportunity to learn about the issues facing the city and its residents from members of the local community. In their pedagogical development sessions, the volunteers received tools to better tutor the students and present a model of meaningful learning and partnership at local schools.

During their weekly learning day, the group also explored themes related to identity, education, and society. Throughout the year, they further enriched their learning experience by attending two weekend seminars and four educational tours. It is critical to Sadaka-Reut’s model that the participants are not only exposed to new information, but are also equipped with the tools to pursue their own research on issues that are important to them. Since we believe that the reality that exists on the outside always intrudes its way into the group in one way or another, current events, which are often mentioned by the participants themselves, are acknowledged and addressed.
Against the Deportation of Asylum-Seekers

Jaffa

As the issue of asylum-seekers in South Tel Aviv and Israel in general gained more public and media attention after the government’s declaration of its deportation plan, Jewish and Palestinian participants of Community in Action were motivated to learn more about the situation. In order to raise awareness and involve the Jaffa community on this issue, the participants successfully held a multi-national roundtable discussion at a Jaffa Cafe. The issues discussed evolved around the implications of the high concentration of asylum-seekers in South Tel Aviv as well as the potential outcome of their planned deportation. The discussion was fruitful and included the voices of Palestinians, Jews, and asylum-seekers alike. The group produced bi-lingual stickers stating “No to (the) Deportation” in both Hebrew and Arabic, which they then hung around Jaffa while making sure that they include both of them side by side.

Speaking Words of Struggles

Jaffa

Community in Action participants dedicated their final initiative to the theme of social and political struggles. This initiative grew out of the experience of one of the Palestinian participants, who was asked by the Coordinator of a Spoken Word Poetry Group in which she was a member, to remove a line that dealt directly with the Gaza protests from a poem she wrote. When she refused, she was prevented from getting on stage and performing at the group’s event. Once the participant shared her experience with the Community in Action in Jaffa, where Community in Action participants have been volunteering for several years, says:

“...The volunteers from Sadaka-Reut have been an important and helpful addition to our educational framework at the school. Our students are in constant need of positive reinforcement and attention, which they get through their interactions with Sadaka-Reut volunteers, who are invested in the progress. More importantly, our students get to know and respect volunteers that come from different backgrounds and religions, and sometimes speak a different language. Despite and maybe because of this, the students look forward to meeting them and acquiring new experiences time and again.

The support our students receive from Sadaka-Reut volunteers is both academic and emotional. They form special relationships, and our feeling is that the volunteers give a part of themselves in the process and truly empower the students. Given this positive experience and success of the program, I wish that we continue with this cherished work for many more years. I hope that Sadaka-Reut will keep growing and stay involved in our school, as well as other institutions that will have the privilege to gain that added value and learn to accept people who are different and unique.”

In the words of our partners

Asmaa Hasoneh, Educational Counsellor at Hassan Arafeh School in Jaffa, where Community in Action participants have been volunteering for several years, says:

“The volunteers from Sadaka-Reut have been an important and helpful addition to our educational framework at the school. Our students are in constant need of positive reinforcement and attention, which they get through their interactions with Sadaka-Reut volunteers, who are invested in the progress. More importantly, our students get to know and respect volunteers that come from different backgrounds and religions, and sometimes speak a different language. Despite and maybe because of this, the students look forward to meeting them and acquiring new experiences time and again.

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Initiatives

Alumni story

Duaa Kundos

Age: 21 years old

Place of Residence: Jaffa

Program: Community in Action, 2015-2016

Current Occupation: Student of Biology and Philosophy at Tel Aviv University; Facilitator at the Sadaka-Reut Building a Culture of Peace Project, and Barista.

“I initially heard about the Community in Action project through my sister Huda, who was also a Sadaka-Reut participant at the time. I had just finished high school and was looking for a place to grow politically and socially, which would also allow me to volunteer with my community.

The program changed me 180 degrees. Thoughts and feelings that up to that point were subconscious or under the surface turned into clear arguments and I’ve developed the ability to express them in words. The program lit a fire in me, a will to change, and fuelled me with the energy to volunteer and make an impact. To this day, I volunteer in Jaffa and constantly discover more things I want to change. Going through the Sadaka-Reut program empowered me and gave me the tools to be critical of my environment, alongside the motivation to change it. I still resist things that are happening in my society, but now I do that with a greater intention to transform it and with the tools to know where to begin.

Last year, when four women were murdered in Jaffa by their relatives, it really upset me. Together with other Sadaka-Reut alumni, we spoke with Sadaka-Reut’s director and told her we were angry and just wanted to go out to the street and shout. Every time something like that happens it either builds up or diminishes the belief in change, but I think there is still hope, and you can see it everywhere. As a facilitator, when you see change in even a single participant who somehow starts to understand the deeper meaning of things, it represents hope, even if you don’t always see it, looking at the overall situation.”
The Partners in Shaping Reality (PSR) project engages university students in dialogue and action groups. Promoting a space for civic, political, and social discussions about the conflict and Jewish-Arab relations on campus, it encourages students to play an active responsible role and to be involved in changing their environment, while giving them skills to continue strengthening their voice once the program ends.

The view from the margins
On many college and university campuses throughout Israel, similar to mixed cities, different groups share the same spaces without truly interacting with each other. For the first time in many people’s lives, after graduating from high-school and, for some, after completing their army or national service, young adults come in contact with “the other”. Jewish and Palestinian students attend the same institutions of higher-education, and yet, lead separate lives there. Academic spaces have the potential to enable marginal voices to be heard, as students are given the choice to engage with concepts more foreign to them through a diverse course selection. However, in the Israeli context, students’ choices and faculty’s self-censorship result in a continuation of the suppression of narratives outside the mainstream. The inherent separation is further amplified through the polarising political environment fostered by some groups, such as Im Tirtzu (a Zionist group active on Israeli campuses) that promote hostile actions towards both Palestinians and any other individuals, including professors, who are identified as Left-wing.

In March, the Israeli Council for Higher Education called on academic institutions to adopt a code of ethics, initially proposed by Israel’s Education Minister, which prohibits lecturers from expressing their political views in the classroom and on campus. Furthermore, institutions that adopt this code will be preventing their faculty from participating in, or calling for, an academic boycott of Israel.

What we’re doing about it
This year, two student groups from campuses in Israel participated in our student program. The first, a short-term group from Tel Aviv University, operated as a part of a university course that combines theoretical and practical aspects of social cleavages and struggles. The five female Palestinian participants met with a Sadaka-Reut facilitator for a series of workshops oriented towards on-campus activism, and concluded with an initiative that reflects some of their thoughts on gender violence. The second group met throughout the academic year at the Achva College of Education in the Israeli South, including Jewish and Palestinian participants from nearby towns. The content discussed during the workshops was as diverse as the backgrounds of the participants - including Bedouin Palestinians from the Negev/Naqab and Jewish Mizrahim. One of the main themes that kept coming up was the fear that the participants felt prevented them from getting to know each other before they joined the bi-national group. The program included two tours - one in the Negev/Naqab region, and the other a dual-narrative tour of Jaffa, where participants were exposed to two perspectives - Jewish and Palestinian - on the history and politics of Jaffa.
Violence against Women Takes Many Forms
Tel Aviv
The activism group at Tel Aviv University (TAU) carried out an awareness-raising initiative about violence against women - a product of the practical part of a course we facilitate in partnership with The Association for Civil Rights in Israel at the university. The sticker they designed reflects some of the students’ conclusions from the discussions that took place during the course; namely, that violence against women can be manifested in a variety of different ways, ranging from physical to emotional and psychological abuse.

Interaction changes the rules of the game
Achva College
The bi-national group at Achva College made posters to hang around their campus, with the purpose of highlighting the benefits of personal inter-group interaction and meaningful dialogue. One of the lines on the poster, which consists of quotes from the participants at the end of the program, reads: “I used to be scared [of ‘the other’] and kept my distance, until I realised that you cannot judge based on physical appearances, it’s a matter of choice”.

In the words of our partners
Gal Deutsch, Program Coordinator and Doctoral Student at Tel Aviv University, says:

“The Sadaka-Reut Partners in Shaping Reality Project was integrated into a course incorporating social activity for undergraduate students. The Sadaka-Reut program complements the academic parts of the course. The need we identified concerned a will to generate more space for students to process and discuss the theoretical issues studied in the classroom, which surround them in their everyday lives. Additionally, we saw great importance in cooperating with an organization that implements in real life the principles we’d set out for the course, namely unveiling racist phenomena in the society in Israel and diminishing and fighting them, with great and inspiring courage.

This process is unique and greatly beneficial in its expansion of terminology and further dealing with issues of racism. Through the weekly meetings, the students said they’d understood the connection between different kinds of oppression, and learnt about Arab society internally and externally and the complexities of the society in Israel in general. Due to the safe space that had been created, many of them discusssed issues such as feminism, violence against women, LGBT issues and others for the first time.

In addition to the educational process and the safe space the facilitators created for the students, the students also gained experience in activism. The educational process they have gone through in the group not only evolved their critical thinking, but also gave hope for change.”

Alana Lavan
Age: 43 years old
Place of Residence: Gedera
Program: Partners in Shaping Reality, 2017-2018
Current Occupation: Alternative Medicine Therapist, and studying for a BA in Social Sciences.

“I heard about the project through an email that was sent out by the college. I was interested by the possibility of discussing issues that we don’t normally get to discuss. Additionally, I study conflict resolution, which is something the meetings also dealt with, and so I was interested in that aspect of the project. It was about the reality of our lives, but also this field of studies.

These meetings encourage unnatural situations that don’t usually happen in life, taking the time to sit down with people and talk about the content brought by the facilitators. The Arab girls we’ve had were Bedouin and very young - it’s a specific part of the Arabic population here, but I feel it gave me a point of view I didn’t have before, which may be specific but can still teach me some of the complexities of being Arab in Israel.

The program opened up something in my approach on the most basic, human level. I feel the change in my approach to the Arab minority in discussions I have with my children. It’s something I take with me wherever I go. When discussing politics and current issues, I’m more open and considerate of it, both in the way I talk about things and the way I act.”
Tours and Group Meetings

Sadaka-Reut has been offering tours of Jaffa for multiple years, and recently solidified the program by training its staff to lead these tours. Each tour lasts three hours, and is led by a Palestinian and a Jewish member of the staff. The tour, combining alternative history, current struggles facing the community, and personal narratives, is followed by a processing workshop. Alternatively, two members of the staff meet with groups at our Jaffa office for a shorter conversation and analysis away from the sun and rain.

As we celebrate our 35th year of education and action, this year Sadaka-Reut staff met with over 350 people to share our accumulated knowledge about existing gaps in the education system, Jaffa’s social and political environment, and how these issues can be addressed. Our audiences included students, academics, international visitors, and local residents alike who reached out in order to get a binational perspective on current and historical events as an alternative to mainstream narratives.

In the words of our partners

To: Sadaka-Reut
Jewish-Arab youth partnership

My name is Elazar, a fellow at the Bronfman Fellowship, and I would like to thank you for the meeting and the conversation with Rawan, which was a part of our introspection seminar. Our conversation was truly interesting and helpful; the concept of an “effective discussion” - one that doesn’t ignore the difficult issues - stayed with us for the rest of the seminar. Additionally, this meeting evolved our understanding of the reality of life in the country. I left the meeting with a fuller understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and of the relations between Jews and Arabs in general. More importantly, we began acquiring tools to progress to a more positive place: productive discussion, and the understanding that the harsher conversations are unavoidable. Personally, as a new oleh (immigrant) from the USA, I have left the meeting with a brand new outlook. This conversation has entirely changed the way in which I understand the relations between Arabs and Jews in Israel, as well as my place in them. We wish Rawan and the entire team at Sadaka-Reut a good year, full of love and peace.

With great appreciation,
Elazar, on behalf of the 2017 Bronfman Fellows

Staff and Facilitator Development

The facilitation training program includes seven full days of professional development for our team of coordinators and facilitators. Each day combines sessions of theoretical learning, practical discussions and methodological experimentation through which the participants advance their facilitation skills while engaging in peer-learning and going through this process together as a team. Guest lecturers and facilitators are invited to enrich and diversify the learning experience. This year, the training days covered issues ranging from tracking in education and the influence of the media on our lives, to drawing connections between conflict and gender, and occupation and society. For two days in February, we hosted two facilitators from Platform of French NGOs for Palestine who trained our staff on using the political games they created under the title of Living Palestine.

The interactions that take place between staff members and facilitators provide them with a unique opportunity to learn from one another, or as one participant put it: “the exposure to diverse content and new ways of thinking gave everyone the opportunity to express themselves and share their expertise with the rest of the group”. Following the approval of the Nation-State Basic law, the issue was addressed in a staff development meeting with the purpose of both processing it among the staff, and training the facilitators on ways to approach it with their groups. Another participant added: “we all come from different places and backgrounds, and these meetings enable us to learn from one another and get on the same page regarding the content and messages we wish to convey to our participants.”

The program pushed participants to constantly challenge and enhance their facilitation practices. This year, after experimenting with board games as an educational method during the program, the team started exploring the idea of developing educational games for social and political change!
Alumni Community

Over the past year, Sadaka-Reut laid the grounds for a long-term alumni program to support our growing community of graduates from the different projects. Two Coordinators have been working under the supervision of the co-director to develop a foundational framework for Sadaka-Reut alumni to connect and act together. As a first step, we opened a new Facebook group (which currently has 276 members) that remains active and engaged, demonstrating that many of our alumni still consider themselves connected to Sadaka-Reut years after their participation in a structured program. We now view our alumni as their own target group, through the Facebook group and mailing list (including 520 subscribers), and reach out on various occasions to keep them involved in the organisation’s activities. Additionally, Sadaka-Reut’s co-director joined the Alumni Organizations’ Managers Forum in order to connect and network with fellow organisations with an alumni program in place. This has been a meaningful learning process, through which we have both learned from, and contributed to, the Forum’s work. An alumni conference is planned to take place by the end of 2018 to celebrate the growth and strength of our alumni community.

What’s in store

Walking in Jaffa’s Shoes Tour Booklet
As a continuation of our successful tour of Jaffa, led by Sadaka-Reut staff, we are working on a Walking in Jaffa’s Shoes tour booklet, which will guide participants through several dimensions of life in Jaffa: The historic dimension (from 1948 onwards), the educational dimension, and housing issues. The booklet will be printed in three languages - Arabic, Hebrew, and English - to match the diverse groups that join the tours. Like the tour, it will address the question of what is left from historical Jaffa after 1948, and provide a critical look at the Jewish-Arab “co-existence” approach, promoted by the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality.

Engaging, Empowering and Equipping Diverse and Marginalised Palestinian and Israeli Youth and Amplifying their Voices for Peace
We are excited to launch, starting from January 2018, a new project in partnership with CAFOD and the EU that focuses on empowering and amplifying the voices of marginalised youth through communication, advocacy, and media training. This project recognises that empowering youth is the key to unlock their potential in civil society engagement, and that they are vital players for driving forward any negotiated settlement for peace. Furthermore, youth’s familiarity with social media and new forms of organising and engaging has the potential to be transformative.
With the goal of equipping young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to be the future leaders for peace, this project intends to take training and initiatives of our various programs’ target groups to the next level.

Games for Equality
Consistent with the educational pedagogy of Paulo Freire, Sadaka-Reut believes in education as a tool to changing society. With this in mind, we continue to seek creative ways to equip youth with the lens through which they can examine society critically, challenge rigid conflict narratives, and think of alternative political and social structures. In a new project, a group led by Sadaka-Reut staff and graduates will create innovative board games to grapple with complex, controversial and emotional concepts such as oppression and inequality. Once developed, the game will be used in workshops across the country.

A community event on the day of Commemoration of the Nakba

Discussion circles during the 2017 SR educational conference
Thank You!

We wish to thank all our amazing staff, volunteers, facilitators, alumni, and our committed board of directors. Our work is carried out and continuously improves through the great love and support of these visionary individuals.

Our thanks also go out to all the educators, teachers and youth workers that believe in our activities and open doors for us to reach youth, and to our local partners in different communities that together with us form a network of dedicated organisations working together for social change.

Finally, our work would not be possible without the inspired, dedicated, and generous organisations and individuals around the world who provide us with financial and ideological support. We would like to thank them, and recognise our donors:

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Financial Summary

**Expenditure by Project**

- Program Activities and Coordination: $1,375,278
- Local Office: $113,282
- Travel: $13,011
- Equipment: $1,564
- Services: $82,744
- The Garden Library project: $105,399
- Community in Action: $384,014
- Building a Culture of Peace: $564,610
- Supporting activities: $147,168
- Alumni Project: $78,598
- Staff and facilitator development: $56,182
- Partners in Shaping reality: $114,714

**Expenditure by Type:**

- Trusts and Foundations: $1,558,746
- Services: $69,462
- Individual Donors: $28,084
- General Expenses: $135,194
- Partners in Shaping reality: $114,714
- Staff and facilitator development: $56,182
- Supporting activities: $147,168
- Community in Action: $384,014
- Building a Culture of Peace: $564,610

**Income Sources:**

- Program Activities and Coordination: $1,375,278
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**Income Sources:**

- Individual Donors: $28,084
- Services: $69,462
- Trusts and Foundations: $1,558,746

**TOTAL Income Sources:**

- $1,656,291

**Expenditure by Type:**

- Trusts and Foundations: $1,558,746
- Services: $69,462
- Individual Donors: $28,084
- General Expenses: $135,194
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- Staff and facilitator development: $56,182
- Supporting activities: $147,168
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- Building a Culture of Peace: $564,610

**TOTAL Expenditure:**

- $1,585,879

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The 2017 financial statements covering January 1 - December 31, 2017 have been audited by Livay & Livay Certified Public Accountants (Isr.), and found to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in Israel (Israeli and GAAP), for non-profit and for public benefit organisations.

For the full financial reports, please visit www.reutsadaka.org/financial-reports-4/
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To donate through our Global Giving Campaign, please visit:
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15 Jerusalem Blvd.
Jaffa 6811201, ISRAEL
Swift code: IDBLILIT
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For a UK tax deduction, please make out a check to the New Israel Fund, write on the memo line/attach a note that the check is for Sadaka-Reut: Arab-Jewish Youth Partnership - NIF ID 5805. The minimum donation accepted by NIF (UK) is of £70.
Please post the check to New Israel Fund, 26 Enford Street, London W1H 2DD, UK.

For further inquiries please contact us at
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For a US tax deduction, make out a check to the New Israel Fund, write on the memo line/attach a note that the check is for Sadaka-Reut: Arab-Jewish Youth Partnership - NIF ID 5805. The minimum donation accepted by NIF (US) is of $100.
Please post the check to New Israel Fund, P.O.Box 91588, Washington DC, 20090-1588 USA.

To join our growing Friends Association and contribute 30ILS per month through your credit card, please contact us at info@reutsadaka.org or call +972 (0)3 5182336.