

2020 Annual Report



Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues

A Message from our Leadership

NAZARETH: The largest Arab city in Israel

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In 2006, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli-Arab Issues (IATF) was created by seven major American Jewish organizations* to serve as a non-partisan educator about Israel’s Arab citizens and Jewish-Arab relations for the American Jewish community.

In the fourteen years since, IATF has accompanied a growing coalition of North American Jewish member organizations around what have become some of Israel’s most dynamic and vital—while complex and challenging—developments.

As COVID-19 and political divisiveness have thrown American Jewish and Israeli societies into flux, they have also accentuated needs for connection, cooperation, and vision, and the sense of shared destinies.

The breadth and depth of IATF activities described below reflects the increasing prominence of Arab citizens in Israel’s public, economic and democratic arenas, and the increasing relevance of these issues to the American Jewish commitment to Israel.

Our work would not be possible without the partnership and participation of each of our members and is all the more impactful as a community. We look forward to continuing our educational collaboration.

Sincerely,

Brian Lurie
Co-Chair

Darrel Friedman, Co-Chair
JDC, Interim CEO

*See founding members on page 12

Educational Mission and Activities

IATF raises and deepens awareness about Arab society and Jewish-Arab relations in Israel by working closely with American Jewish professionals and leadership to bring these issues to their organizations and communities.

- **Programs and Missions**

Arab and Jewish speakers drawn from IATF's vast professional network share first-hand insights—introductory to in-depth—across a wide range of issue areas.

- **Foundation Forum**

Expert briefings on social and economic developments support shared learning among philanthropists and funding professionals.

- **Professional Seminars**

Programs and trainings for Israel engagement and education professionals help them make these issues part of a more complex and constructive discourse on Israel.

- **Publications**

From newsletters to briefing papers, a steady stream of Task Force publications puts major developments into contextualized and accessible formats.

NAZARETH:
Microsoft R&D Center est. 2016



IATF 2020 in Numbers

41

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

EVENTS, BRIEFINGS, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, MISSIONS, TRAININGS

28

EVENT PARTNERS

REACHING DIVERSE AMERICAN JEWISH AUDIENCES THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

64

ISRAELI SPEAKERS

FIRST PERSON INSIGHTS FROM ARAB AND JEWISH LEADERS AND CHANGEMAKERS

18

PUBLICATIONS

IN-DEPTH REPORTS, ISSUE UPDATES, POPULATION BRIEFS, NEWSLETTERS

20

SUBJECT AREAS

FACETS OF SHARED SOCIETY, ARAB CITIZEN IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL DISCOURSE, COVID-19

74

ACTIVE MEMBERS

FEDERATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, COMMUNITY, RELIGIOUS AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

JISR AZ-ZARQA: Only Arab community on the coast

Photo Credit: Golf Bravo, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3334946>

COVID-19: Shared Crisis, Many Realities



A paramedic team stops for prayers. This photo, taken in March, went viral in Israel as an inspiring moment in a global pandemic. Photo credit: Mohammed Alnabari, MDA

2020


BY MARCH, COVID-19 BROUGHT IN-PERSON GATHERINGS TO A HALT, STRAINED ORGANIZATIONS, AND SHIFTED FOCUS EVERYWHERE TO EMERGENCY PRIORITIES

In Israel, the crisis underscored the interdependence of Jewish and Arab communities while accentuating resource gaps and cultural disparities.

IATF dedicated the first months of the pandemic to mapping emergency needs and response in Arab society and the implications for Jewish-Arab relations for American Jewish funders.

As the crisis became a new reality, we turned to our communal members to hear about the impact on their organizations and communities, and how our educational resources could support their changing needs.

COVID-19 Programs and Resources



ABU TLUL VILLAGE : Volunteers pack donations of food and hygienic supplies. Photo credit: Joint Emergency Situation Room of the Negev

12 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

11 PUBLICATIONS

Funder Briefings

National Calls

Community Programs

Briefing Papers

Updates and Translations

Briefings with government officials, civil society leaders and medical professionals on emergency needs and response in Arab communities, the view from the medical frontlines, shared society, employment, and digital gaps. *See a full list of IATF programs on page 13.*

In-depth mapping papers on emergency needs and activities in Arab society, updates on socio-economic implications, and translations and summaries of reports from the field.

Educational Programs

Over the year, IATF hosted member calls, funders briefings, and partnered with dozens of Jewish organizations on in-person (pre-pandemic) and online events reaching thousands.

Participants joined discussions about Arab citizens in Israel's general elections, economy, high-tech industry, LGBTQ movement, mixed cities, and more.

[See a full list of events and speakers on p.13](#)

"IATF speakers brought faces and stories to the Associated's Insight Israel Forum that demonstrate the complexity of Israel while supporting inclusive and engaging discussions in the Jewish community."

Jeffrey M. Blavatt, Executive Director of the Insight Israel Forum at The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore

HIBA ISELAH (R) of the JDC discusses digital access and literacy gaps in Arab society on a Foundation Forum zoom call.



RON GERLITZ, Director of aChord, on an IATF call about Arab discourse and responses to the unity government



SIREEN NIJEEM (L), high-tech engineer, on a zoom event with the JCRC of Philadelphia about Arab women in tech Israeli after her visit was cancelled due to travel restrictions.



Event Partners



Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION

הקרן החדשה לישראל
New Israel Fund
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل





Educator Trainings

IATF's work with major Israel education partners continues as each navigates ongoing uncertainties about travel, campus, and community life.

- **Birthright:** Training days adapted for Zoom were held for 80 Israeli guides.
- **JAFI Shlichut Institute:** Powerful in-person seminars in January and March were followed by speakers and resources integrated into online trainings.

"The need for more nuanced discourse about Israel is greater than ever, and the content presented by IATF has been one of the keys to achieving it."

***Shelley Kedar**, Founding Director, The Shlichut Institute, Jewish Agency For Israel*



SHLICHUT INSTITUTE: Matan Yaffe of Desert Stars (L), and Mohammad Darawshe of Givat Haviva (R), address Israeli emissaries to the US (shlichim) at AIPAC. Photo: JAFI

Publications

In 2020, IATF briefing papers covered Urban Planning—behind many barriers to Arab economic development—and the COVID-19 emergency response.

Posts, columns, updates, newsletters, report summaries and translations, kept members up-to-date on priority issues like the rise in violent crime, Arab responses to the unity government and annexation discourse, government budgets for Arab society, and more.

See IATF publications [here](#).

Posts

Already at Crisis Levels, Violent Crime in Arab Communities Rises under Corona Stress

Already at crisis levels, violent crime continues to rise in Arab communities in Israel's Arab communities. Despite increased awareness and attention to the issue in recent years, the number of Arab victims of violent crime rose 20% in 2020, with 100 victims in 2020, a 20% increase from 83 in 2019. According to the National Institute for Research in the Quality of Life, 50% of these victims were Arab youth in their late teens or early 20s.

In 2020, early warnings that the Corona pandemic would lead to increased violent crime were not heeded. Social distancing and the use of face masks and gloves led to a decline in demand and social isolation (such as family visits) and increased crime. At the end of June 2020, 10 Arab citizens had been charged with manslaughter, resulting from violence, compared with 10 in 2019. The Arab Center has received 15,000 calls of violence in Arab society in 2020, up from 10,000 in 2019, a 50% increase from the number reported in 2018.

Digital Gaps and Accessibility for Arab Society: From Connectivity to Skills and Services

The Arab Center has published a report on digital connectivity and accessibility for Arab society. The report will be available in Hebrew, English and Arabic. It highlights the need for digital connectivity and accessibility for Arab society, and the need for digital skills and services. The report also highlights the need for digital connectivity and accessibility for Arab society, and the need for digital skills and services.




UNEP, UN Women, UN Women Arab Center

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Columns

UNITY GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Arab Citizens and the Emergency Unity Government: Impact on Political Aspirations



On Sunday May 17, Israel inaugurated a unity government jointly led by incumbent PM Netanyahu (Likud) and rival Benny Gantz (Kahol Lavan), ending 18 months of political gridlock spanning three legislative elections. The new government raises questions about the future of Arab citizens: aspirations for greater political influence and participation, and about the status of their concerns in the wake of the Coronavirus crisis.

SAKHNIN: Wide sidewalks and ample parking are part of recent main street improvements. Urban development is a serious challenge for Arab cities, which are built on mostly private land and predate urban planning. See [IATF report](#) Photo credit: Avivit Hai

Briefing Papers

COVID-19 in Israel's Arab

Urban Planning in Israel's Arab Communities

February 2020



Issue Updates

Annexation Discourse

GR-922 Extension and Future Plan

February 2020



Field Newsletter

Issue Update - June 2020

Issue Update - Summer 2020

Issue Update - Winter 2020

Issue Update - Spring 2020

Issue Update - Fall 2020

Issue Update - Year End 2020

Issue Update - New Year 2021

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2021

Issue Update - End of Year 2021

Issue Update - New Year 2022

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2022

Issue Update - End of Year 2022

Issue Update - New Year 2023

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2023

Issue Update - End of Year 2023

Issue Update - New Year 2024

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2024

Issue Update - End of Year 2024

Issue Update - New Year 2025

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2025

Issue Update - End of Year 2025

Issue Update - New Year 2026

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2026

Issue Update - End of Year 2026

Issue Update - New Year 2027

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2027

Issue Update - End of Year 2027

Issue Update - New Year 2028

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2028

Issue Update - End of Year 2028

Issue Update - New Year 2029

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2029

Issue Update - End of Year 2029

Issue Update - New Year 2030

Issue Update - Mid-Year 2030

Issue Update - End of Year 2030

KFAR-QASEM: Interior (top) and exterior (bottom) of 'Klika', the first government funded co-working hub in an Arab city est. 2019. Photos: Kfar-Qasem municipality



2020 Financials

INCOME	2019	2020
Carryover	50,311	54,846
Dues	573,967	479,433
Other	6,095	450
	630,373	534,729

EXPENSES	2019	2020
Personnel	543,763	462,456
Program	20,639	2,655
Overhead	11,932	9,000
	576,334	474,111

RESERVES	2019	2020
Cash	150,000	150,000

IATF Executive Committee

Co-Chairs

Brian Lurie
President, Caroline and Brian
Lurie Philanthropic Fund*

Darrel Friedman
Interim Chief Executive Officer,
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee*

Committee Members

Kenneth Jacobson
National Director,
Anti-Defamation League*

Howard Sohn
Chair and Executive,
Fohs Foundation

Michael Hirschhorn
President of the Trustees,
The Jacob and Hilda
Blaustein Foundation

Jeffrey Solomon*
Senior Advisor, Chasbro
Investments, The Karev Foundation

Malcolm Hoenlein
Executive Vice Chairman,
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish
Organizations*

Daniel Sokatch
Chief Executive Officer,
New Israel Fund*

Alisa Doctoroff
Member-at-Large

Rebecca Katz-White
Planning Director,
UJA-Federation of New York*

Roni Rubenstein
Member-at-Large

**Founding members*

Staff

Liron Shoham
*Executive
Director*

Michelle Herrera
*Operations
Manager*

Ilan Fathi Amit
*Content Expert
and Israel
Representative*

Erica Shaps
*Programs and
Resources
Manager*

Ido Yahel
*Researcher /
Writer*

IATF Members

The Abraham Fund Initiatives
Alan B. Slifka Foundation
Alfred and Hanna Fromm Fund
Ameinu
American Friends of Hand in Hand
American Friends of Hebrew University
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
American Society of the University of Haifa
Anonymous
Anti-Defamation League
Arnow Family Fund
Caroline and Brian Lurie Philanthropic Fund
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Family Charitable Funds
Diane and Guilford Glazer Philanthropies
Fohs Foundation
Friends of the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism
Jonathan Russo and Deborah Grayson
Gimprich Family Foundation
Givat Haviva Educational Foundation
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Hadassah
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Jewish Agency for Israel
Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta
Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City
Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
Jewish Federation of Greater San Antonio
Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
Jewish Federation of Greater Metropolitan Detroit
Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
Jewish Federation of St. Louis
Jewish Federations of North America

Jewish Funders Network
Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
The Karev Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
Koret Foundation
Marcia's Light Foundation
Mimi and Peter Haas Fund
Morningstar Foundation
Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
National Council of Jewish Women
New Israel Fund
One8 Foundation
Schusterman Family Foundation-Israel
Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society
The Charles H. Revson Foundation
The Hadassah Foundation
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
The LunArt Fund

The Russell Berrie Foundation
The Schocken Foundation
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
UJA-Federation of New York*
Union for Reform Judaism
United Jewish Federation of San Diego County
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Wils Family Foundation
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Carole Zabar

NEGEV: Unrecognized Bedouin village. Roughly 100k Bedouin live in villages not connected to infrastructure due to a longstanding land dispute with the state.
Photo credit: By [Neukoln](#), "Unrecognized Bedouin village," CC BY-SA 3.0

2020 Activities

	Mar 30 COVID-19 Emergency response in Arab Society. With Rasool Sa'ada, Maoz and Aiman Saif, National Council of Arab Mayor	Aug 5 "You Can't Ask That! Israeli Arabs." With Mohammad Zoabi <i>DC area Congregations Shaare Torah and Har Shalom</i>
Jan 14 Training for JAFI Community Shlichim, With Amal Elsana Al'hjooj, ICAN	Apr 2 Arab Women in Israel's High-Tech Industry. With Ifat Baron, founder of Itworks, and Sireen Nijeem, Arab Engineer, <i>JCRC and NextGen of Philadelphia</i>	Aug 24 Peer Zoom: Digital Gaps. With Dr. Asmaa Ghanayem, In-Digital, Jesse Rosenblit Digital Israel, Mira Zohar Seban and Hiba Iselah, JDC
Jan 16 Jewish-Arab Relations in the Shadow of Elections. With Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin and Ameer Fakhoury, <i>Israel Action Network</i>	Apr 7 Covid-19 in Israel's Arab Communities. With Ghada Abu Jaber and Mohammad Darawshe	Sept 24 Birthright Guide Training Day. With Dalia Fadila of Q Schools and Desert Stars students, <i>Taglit-Birthright - Israel</i>
Jan 16 Community Development in Israel's Mixed Cities. With Avital Blonder, JINDAS, Ben Mayost, Lod Economic Corporation, and urban revitalization expert Richard D. Baron. <i>UJA-Federation of New York, Jewish Funders Network</i>	Apr 14 Coronavirus on the Medical Frontlines: A Bedouin Doctor's Perspective. With Dr. Yasmeen Abu Fraihia, <i>JCRC Boston, Boston Partners for Peace</i>	Sept 24 Peer Zoom: Master Plan on Employment for 'GR-923.' With Nasreen Hadad Haj'Yahya, Israel Democracy Institute. <i>Social Venture Fund for Jewish Arab Equality and Shared Society</i>
Jan Webinar Introduction for JAFI Shlichim. With Ifat Baron, Itworks, and Sireen Nijeem, graduate of Itworks and Arab Engineer. <i>JAFI</i>	Apr 30 Israel's Arab Society: Update on Needs, Activities & Philanthropic Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis. With Nihaya Daoud, Ahmed Al Sheik, Kher Albaz, and Batya Kallus, <i>JFN and SVF</i>	Oct 6 The Second Wave in Israel's Arab Society: COVID-19 on the Medical and Community Frontlines. With Dr. Fahed Hakim, Nazareth Hospital and Nidal Othman, Dep Mayor, Tamra, <i>Greater Washington Forum</i>
Feb 4-5 UJA-Federation of New York Mission, UJA's Shared Society Committee and Shared Paths	May 6 UJA-Federation of New York allocation committees briefing. With Ahmad Alsheikh, director of the Galilee Society	Oct 13 25 Years After Rabin's Assassination: Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel. With Mohammad Darawshe, Givat Haviva. <i>Milwaukee Jewish Federation</i>
Feb 10 JCPA 2020 Conference. "Social Innovation, Inclusivity and Coexistence in Israel." With Revital Deuk of Tsofen	Jun 2-4 and July 21-23 CoSponsor: Arabic as a Cultural Bridge: A Three-Day Intensive. With May Arow, The Abraham Initiatives, <i>New Israel Fund, SVF, and the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom</i>	Oct 20 A Complex Identity: Arab Citizen's and Israel's Jewish and Democratic Balance, With Mohammad Darawshe, Givat Haviva. <i>The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore</i>
Feb 11 Higher Education to Employment Pipeline: New National Internship Program. With Varda Ben Shaul, Council for Higher Education and Efrat Aran, Aluma	Jun 8 Shared Society and COVID-19: New Opportunities to Strengthen Jewish-Arab Relations? With Dr. Arsalan Abu Much, Sheba Medical Center, and Edan Ring, Sikkuy, <i>Israel Action Network, JFNA</i>	Nov 2 Birthright Guide Training Day. With Dalia Fadila, Q Schools and Desert Stars students, <i>Taglit-Birthright - Israel</i>
Feb 18 High-Tech Integration: Status and Priorities for National Workplan Proposal. With Revital Duek and Sami Saadi, Co-CEOs of Tsofen, <i>Natan Fund</i>	Jun 11 "Partners in Fate, Partners in Government". With Founder and director of the campaign, Shir Nosatzki, Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society	Nov 10 COVID-19 in Arab Society: New Realities, Old Disparities in a Shared National Crisis. With Ghaida Rinawie-Zoabi, Director of Friends of Poriya Medical Association <i>The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore</i>
Feb 20 The Arab Vote: Issues and Priorities Ahead of the March Election. With Arik Rudnitzky, Researcher, The Israel Democracy Institute, and Maisam Jajuli, Chairwoman for Hadash at Naamat,	Jun 18 Arab Citizens in Israeli Politics: Unity Government, Corona Crisis and Recent Escalations. With Fida Na'ra Tabony, Mahpach-Taghir and Ron Gerlitz, aChord	Nov 17 Peer Zoom: GR-922 extension and implementation. With Salima Suleiman, Ministry of Social Equality, Mudir Younis, National Council of Arab Mayors, and Ofer Dagan, Sikkuy
Feb 22 Seretime: Israel Movie Night. With Thair Abu Rass, University of Maryland, <i>Congregation B'nai Israel, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington</i>	Jun 23 Peer Zoom: Arab Unemployment Figures. With Dr. Gal Zohar, Head of Research and Policy at the Israeli Public Employment Services (IES)	Nov 19 The 21%: Education Day on Arab Society (Breaking Bread). With Beth Elise Hawk, director, and Chef Gazala Halavi, <i>Greater Washington Forum, Edlavitch DCJCC, The Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Fdn</i>
Feb 27 Jewish Federation of St. Louis Mission. With Faten Alzinaty, The Chicago Community Center	July Training for JAFI Shlichim. With Shirin Natour Hafi, Ort Scientific High School, <i>JAFI Shlichut Institute</i>	Dec 1 - 2 Task Force Annual Meeting: The Year in Israel's Arab Society. With Eran Singer, Dr. Nihaya Daoud, Aiman Saif, Afif Abu Much, Zvi Ecksteing, Marian Tehawkho, Nawa Batshon, Avi Ben Assayag, Rima Shamhoum
Mar 2 Training for JAFI Shlichim. With Mohammad Darawshe, Givat Haviva and Matan Yaffe, Desert Stars, <i>JAFI</i>	July 16 A Taste of Shared Society Tourism in Israel: An Arab Guide Tells Her Story. With Shared Paths, <i>Jewish Federation of Greater Youngstown</i>	Dec 1 Lese Center for Living Judaism at Central Synagogue. Jimmy Taber and Miriam Awadallah, The Abraham Initiatives, <i>Central Synagogue</i>
Mar 26 National emergency response to Coronavirus in Arab Society. With Alaa Gantous and Aiman Saif, NCAM. <i>JFN, SVF</i>	July 23 Arab and LGBTQ in Israel: How Tahini is Sparking a National Conversation. With Hila Peer, Aguda, Khader Abu Saif, <i>A Wider Bridge</i>	Dec 7 Other Israel Film Festival Screening of A Common Goal. Moderated discussion with Erica Shaps