

EMERGENCY ACTIONS IN THE FIELD:

Arab Citizens and Prevention of Further Harm and Violence

Thursday, October 12 at 1pm ET

Huda Abu Obaid, Local Advocacy Coordinator, Negev Coexistence Forum

Huda, was born and raised in the village of Lakiya in the Negev. Her journey began in 2006 when she volunteered for a year in unrecognized Negev villages. She holds a B.A. in Middle East Studies and Gender Studies, along with an LL.B. from Ono Academic College. During her academic journey, Huda was actively involved with various organizations, including AJEEC-NISPED, the Negev Coexistence Forum, and the Center for the Study of European Politics and Society at Ben Gurion University. Huda also co-founded the "G'ama'atna" forum for Arab students at Ben Gurion University. In 2013, she played a key role in founding the 'Elhirk Alshbabi' youth group opposing the Praver Plan in the Negev, while also collaborating with the Sidreh Organization to raise awareness, especially among women, about the plan. From 2015 to 2020, Huda was part of the team at Gisa-Maslak organization, advocating for freedom of movement from the Gaza Strip. Today, Huda is a local advocacy coordinator at the Negev Coexistence Forum, amplifying the voices of unrecognized village residents.

Ruth Lewin-Chen, Co-Deputy Executive Director of Programs at The Abraham Initiatives

Ruth Lewin-Chen brings her expertise from directing conflict resolution programs and advocating for women's representation in decision-making positions in the Mevasseret local council. Over the past decade, Ruth has been dedicated to fostering a shared society in Israel, primarily by facilitating dialogue groups for Arab and Jewish youth in various programs such as Seeds of Peace, Givat Haviva, and YMCA International in Jerusalem. She also worked with Shatil and the New Israel Fund on developing knowledge on social movements. Ruth holds degrees in Psychology and Comparative Literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Master's in Organizational Sociology.

Jana Boulus, Resource Development and International Relations Manager at Qadaya

Jana is an accomplished TEDx speaker and has a rich background in political, social, and youth-related initiatives, having previously worked with organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Seeds of Peace, Adalah, MEET, and B'Tselem. Prior to joining ACAP, she served as a Programs Manager at Humanity Crew. In 2020, Jana joined El 'Etelaf to document, report, and consult on campaigns and currently holds the position of Resource Development and International Relations Manager at Qadaya. Jana holds an MSc in English Literature and Modernity from the University of Edinburgh, with a dissertation focused on feminism and Arab women writers. She also earned a BA with a double major in English Literature and General Fine Arts from Haifa University.

Achiya Schatz, CEO FakeReporter

Achiya Schatz is a dedicated social activist with a wealth of expertise in communications and media. He currently serves as the CEO of FakeReporter, a respected organization in Israel that employs crowdsourcing methods to combat disinformation, hate, and other growing threats to democracy in the digital space. Prior to this role, Achiya led impactful campaigns and held positions as a communications director, advisor, and strategist for various organizations and civil movements. His remarkable contributions earned him recognition in 2021 when TheMarker magazine honored him as one of Israel's top 40 young and promising professionals. In 2022, Achiya and FakeReporter received the prestigious "Dror Prize" for their outstanding work. Furthermore, in 2023, Achiya was featured in Tech12's "Techlist" as one of Israel's most influential figures in the tech industry.

Ameer Bisharat, CEO of the National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Authorities

Ameer Bisharat is a lawyer and urban planner. Currently, he serves as CEO of the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities. Ameer founded and has been a director of Al Bayader Economic & Social Development Ltd. He is a board member of the Israel Planners Association, a board member of the Heschel Center for Sustainability, and serves as a public representative from the Arab society on the Implementation Team for GR-550 on Housing. Amir holds a B.A. in law, an M.A. in administration and public policy from the University of Haifa, an M.A. in law specializing in human rights from the College of Management, and an M.A. in

geography and urban and regional planning from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Ameer was born and raised in Jaffa of Nazareth and currently resides in Jaffa (Tel Aviv - Jaffa).