

# connectwithncjwisraelprogram

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National Council of Jewish Women

Debbie Hoffmann, President  
Nancy K. Kaufman, CEO

# ncjw's israel program at-a-glance

2016-2017



NCJW has been a leading organization in supporting Israel for more than 69 years, helping to lay the groundwork for important social change efforts in Israel. We are now witnessing the evolution of Israeli society as more and more women demand their fair and equal rights amidst serious challenges to those rights. NCJW has long been committed to advancing women's status in Israel by helping women develop a stronger voice at all levels of society.

Today, strategic efforts like the Israel Granting Program (IGP) and NCJW's advocacy and coalition work continue in a spirit of education and empowerment. NCJW helps to advance the lives of women, children, and families, advocate for civil liberties and support efforts to strengthen democracy and peace in Israel - ensuring Israel's future. See inside for the list of this year's grantees. NCJW urges all of our members, sections, and supporters to become active partners in the opportunities made possible through the Israel Granting Program. Supporting IGP is an ideal way to speak your mind and connect your heart to Israel.

**EXCITING NEW PROJECT:** In 2017, NCJW announced an important new research project, in partnership with the Dafna Fund of Israel, to assess the current status and future trends of the feminist agenda in Israel. Entitled "**Past Achievements and Future Directions: Feminist and Women's Organizations in Israel,**" this year-long research will culminate in a one-day Symposium in Israel on March 8, 2018 to discuss the findings among Israeli activists and women funders, including the Jewish Women's Funds (JWF) and NCJW leaders. The research team, led by Dr. Nancy Strichman, uses interviews and focus groups to engage organizational leaders and activists, academics, bloggers, journalists, businesswomen and political leaders across the spectrum of Israel's diverse society, sparking creative conversation about challenges and achievements in the field and asking about the needs and directions for feminist influence in the coming decade. The research findings will be used to guide strategic thinking for both funders and activists, attract new funders, and help develop a road map for the future advancement of gender equality in Israel. NCJW is grateful for a seed grant from the Mazer Family Fund of UJA-Federation of NY.

If you would like more information or are interested in supporting NCJW's Israel program, please contact Dina Charnin, Senior Israel Advisor at [dcharnin@ncjw.org](mailto:dcharnin@ncjw.org) or Leah Goldman, Development Officer, at [lgoldman@ncjw.org](mailto:lgoldman@ncjw.org).



Women Wage Peace - March for Hope  
October 2016



Jerusalem Open House



Members of RIFIE's class training  
Bedouin Israeli women for the workforce

# 2017 recipients

**NCJW's Israel Granting Program supports grassroots and advocacy projects that improve the lives of women, children, and families through women's empowerment and progressive social change.**

**NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education (RIFIE): Training Bedouin Women for the Workforce as Educators in the Pre- School Sector.** This unique RIFIE project empowers Bedouin Israeli mothers who wish to work outside the home by training them for paraprofessional work and placement in the early childhood education sector in their communities, benefitting their own families and children throughout the community.

**NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University (TAU): Development of an Alumni Association.** In 2001, the first students were enrolled at the newly NCJW-endowed program at TAU. Now, NCJW is helping the program create its first alumni association. The network of graduates will support each other professionally, disseminate the fruits of their learning to the larger society, support scholarships and attract new students to the program.



Jerusalem Open House Pride March 2016

**Tel Aviv University NCJW Israel Women's Forum:** The Forum was established more than 25 years ago to connect members of academia interested in the newly forming field of gender studies. Now, the Forum works to introduce feminist theory and activism to the community at large through public events. This year the Forum is interested in raising awareness about gender issues among STEM faculty who have remained largely outside the gender studies field.

**Women Wage Peace: Israeli Salad – Inclusive Dialogue among Women from Different Communities:** WWP is a new women's non-partisan grassroots movement with the goal of bringing about the resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict in a non-violent manner. WWP aims to achieve a political agreement

by influencing politicians, training women to be advocates, and through pressure applied by the Israeli public. The Israeli Salad project develops inclusive dialogue, reaching out to women from communities that have been largely left out of conversations about peace and security.

**Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance (JOH):** NCJW's grant will support the organization's work meeting the specific needs of those in the transgender community who are too often excluded from programs and services. The grant will also help transgender activists continue their educational programming in schools in order to increase understanding and fight discrimination.

**Israel Hofsheet - Strengthening Equal Rights in Israel by Promoting Marriage Alternatives:** This grant will help Israel Hofsheet's legal department assist couples of all types enter into common-law marriages – a growing trend. These common-law marriages are recognized by almost all institutions in Israel and allow couples to avoid the Israeli Rabbinate. The long-term goal is to break the Ultra-Orthodox monopoly over personal status issues in Israel and to establish civil marriage as an option for all.

**JWF Collaborative Grant:** NCJW is part of a collaborative grant with 15 Jewish Women's Funds from throughout the U.S. Through a group decision-making process, the Funds have decided to support organizations in Israel which are working on the topic of women and employment, in particular the challenging issue of temporary contracted workers.



Children enjoying programming at Hillel - The Right to Choose

**Hillel—The Right to Choose: Support for Ex-Haredi Single Mothers and Children.** The project will serve roughly 70 single-mothers who have left ultra-Orthodox communities (*Yotzim*) and approximately 130 children. Leaving their communities, participants possess virtually no secular education, job training or vocational skills. Some may have suffered abuse and all face financial distress. The grant supports employment and educational programming, housing subsidies, social and cultural programs for women and children, and single mother legal aid.

**Isha L'Isha - Haifa Feminist Center: Fighting Against Trafficking in Women and Prostitution project.** Our grant allows Isha L'Isha to continue running a hotline, offer job training services and a mentorship program for victims of sex trafficking and prostitution. 62% of women in prostitution are single mothers. Employment training, especially developed for this vulnerable population, directly benefits the children by improving women's economic mobility. Some funds will go to cultural "fun" days for women and children, who are desperately in need of this respite, something they normally can't afford. Isha L'Isha was an early pioneer in leading the fight against trafficking; now they will widen their mission to study women-without-status – refugees, asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, undocumented Arab women married to citizens, and migrant workers.

## Special one-time grants

**NCJW made small grants throughout the year to address urgent grantee requests in line with NCJW's priorities.**

**Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance (JOH):** NCJW has been at the forefront of supporting Jerusalem Open House, including its transgender community project. On the one-year anniversary of the killing of 16-year old Shira Banki by an ultra-Orthodox protestor at the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance in August 2015, NCJW made a special grant to help support the 2016 parade in Jerusalem.

**Women Wage Peace (WWP) – March for Hope:** NCJW made a first-time small grant to WWP for their efforts to create an extraordinary series of public events, concerts and marches over a two-week period in October 2016. The goal was to grab the public's attention and energize a weary society. The final day of the March brought thousands of Palestinian and Israel women to Jericho, and close to twenty-thousand Israeli women (and men) to Jerusalem from the "right, center, and left" to gather and demand from the government a peaceful political agreement with the Palestinians.

**Tel Aviv University (TAU) NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program - Tuition Scholarship for an MA student:** In order to make a difference in the life of one extraordinary woman, and therefore a whole family and community, NCJW answered the request from the chair of the NCJW TAU program for financial help for a deserving Ethiopian student in the final stages of her Master's Degree program. Kasa Getoo has an amazing story to tell of her family's heart-breaking journey from Ethiopia and struggles once in Israel, and plans to focus on the role and effects on women in the Ethiopian community and inspiration she draws from their stories.



Kasa Getoo, Scholarship Recipient, Smadar Shiffman, Chair of TAU Women and Gender Studies Program and Dina Charnin, NCJW