



TASK FORCE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



TASK FORCE on
ARAB CITIZENS
of **ISRAEL**

THE TASK FORCE IN 2024

Throughout 2024, the Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel focused its activities on responding to the changing needs of our constituencies as they contend with wartime crises. In what ways could bringing Arab citizens' voices and perspectives to American Jewish audiences be most constructive during this polarized and sensitive time?

Arab citizens of Israel endured trauma, rocket fire, economic strain, and gaps in emergency response while also contending with an ongoing crime crisis. Many have played essential roles in Israeli institutions and services, contributing to resilience and recovery efforts. At the same time, Arab citizens carried the complex and often unspoken pain of both Israelis and Palestinians. American Jews, mourning the events of October 7 and deeply concerned for Israel, grappled with rising antisemitism and profound divisions over the war.

For American Jewish communities, hearing from Arab leaders and changemakers from Israel provided opportunities to share grief and a mutual need to countenance the war's complexities and envision ways forward together. These conversations illuminated new perspectives and fostered more constructive discourse during a highly polarized time. For funders sending emergency aid to Israel, learning about Arab citizens' needs and the impact of war on Jewish-Arab relations enabled giving across Israeli society and in support of preserving its social fabric into the future.

From calls on emergency needs in Arab communities, to the ten-day US tour of our inaugural cohort of Speaker Fellows, to our largest Annual Meeting to date, we met American Jewish communities that were curious, concerned, and seeking to learn and engage. Delving together into Israeli realities that are anything but black-and-white felt essential for American Jews and Arab citizens alike.

In 2024, we grew our programs and invested in our own and our partners' capacities to connect American Jewish audiences with Arab changemakers from Israel. In 2025, we seek to expand our reach to bring these discourses, shared challenges, and hopes into wider American Jewish networks and communities.

Thank you to all our members and partners for being part of this journey.

TEAM

Liron Shoham
Executive Director

North America

Erica Shaps
Associate Director

Miranda Hellmold Stone
Programs and Operations
Associate

Hana Sloutski
Communications Manager

Israel

Michal Barak
Israel Representative

Ruth Stevens
Educational Programs Developer

Nour Dassouky
Programs Associate

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brian Lurie, Co-Chair
President, Caroline and Brian Lurie
Philanthropic Fund*

Ariel Zwang, Co-Chair
Chief Executive Officer, American
Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee*

Kenneth Jacobson
National Director,
Anti-Defamation League*

Libby Lenkinski
VP for Public Engagement, New
Israel Fund

Alisa Doctoroff
Member-at-Large

Roni Rubenstein
Member-at-Large

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

Howard Sohn
Chair and Executive,
Fohs Foundation

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

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

Stephanie Hausner
Chief Program Officer, Conference
of Presidents of Major American
Jewish Organizations



ABOUT US



The Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel promotes American Jewish engagement with Israel that includes the complex realities and current developments affecting Arab communities and Jewish-Arab relations on the ground.



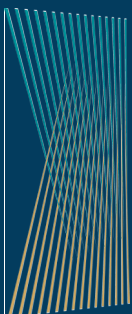
OUR WORK. Through programs, trainings, partnerships, publications, and access to leaders and changemakers, the Task Force helps make these issues a strategic and impactful part of American Jewish philanthropic, educational, and communal engagement with Israel.



OUR GROWTH. Already prior to Oct 7, 2023 we recognized that rising engagement and interest from our educational and philanthropic partners required us to plan strategically for our growth as an organization. The dramatic changes brought on by war only increased the need to build our capacities to respond to new levels of complexity and urgency among both existing and new partners. Alongside our ongoing production of programs and resources, we:

- **Expanded our capacity-building activities** including a new initiative to bring more Arab locations in Israel into the educational travel ecosystem.
- **Completed the training period of the Speaker Fellowship** and launched the speaker bureau portion the program, which has already significantly increased the overall number of programs we've run in 2025.
- **Joined UpStart Laboratory's Growth Stage Accelerator, UpSpring '25** whose resources and supports are helping us strengthen our internal systems, identify adaptive growth challenges and opportunities, and further scale our reach.

NAME UPDATE



TASK FORCE on
ARAB CITIZENS
of **ISRAEL**

In line with our growth, we recognized the importance of clarifying the name of our organization while retaining our identity. Our transition from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues to **the Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel** simplifies and modernizes our name. It emphasizes our focus on citizenship while adopting more appropriate terminology for the field.

2024 IN NUMBERS



85+

PROGRAMS

25+

Event & Program
Partners



55+

SPEAKERS

1770

PARTICIPANTS

7

SPEAKER
FELLOWS



77

MEMBERS

7

TEAM

52

PUBLICATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS:

Our work in 2024 was shaped by the continued engagement of valued partners, both longstanding and new. We thank all our partners for thoughtful collaboration, programming, and support.



PHILANTHROPY

In 2024, funders were contending with cumulative crises. War, polarization, budget cuts, policy changes, and unabated crime in Arab communities put unprecedented strain on the field seeking to ensure Arab citizens are part of emergency and rehabilitation efforts.

Working closely with partners like SVF, JFN, federations and field organizations, the Task Force provided hundreds of funders with timely insights into priorities and needs on the ground, and access to leaders forging strategic paths forward in a rapidly changing and challenging context.

Philanthropy continues to be a driving force behind Arab and Jewish-Arab initiatives in Israel.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- JFN Conference Session: Shared Society Shared Recovery.
- Zoom calls on 15% cuts to GR-500 and annual balancing grants freeze to local authorities.
- Task Force/SVF event series with funder collaborative on crime and violence prevention.
- Annual Foundation Forum Meeting on field capacities: emergency preparedness, employment pipeline, and joint ventures.

During the year, we produced calls and resources on **budget cuts, trauma response and resilience, emergency preparedness and capacity building, crime prevention, the impact of the war on mobility and Jewish-Arab relations, early childhood education, and more.**

RESOURCES FOR FUNDERS

- Arab Society Amid the War: Employment and Economy
- Initiatives to Improve Early Education Access in Arab Communities
- Arab Society Navigating Trauma and Resilience
- 2024 Budget Proposal Cuts NIS 1.2 B from Arab Development Plans
- Escalation in the North: Spotlight on Arab Communities
- Jewish-Arab Relations on Israeli Campuses
- The 2024 Municipal Elections in Arab Localities
- Jewish-Arab Relations: Shared Spaces in Divisive Times

SELECTION OF SPEAKERS



*L-R, T-B: Names and Titles. **Ameer Bisharat**, CEO of the National Committee for Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel; **Enaya Bana**, Co-CEO of AlBayader; **Fadi Elobra**, Director of the Emergency Information Center for Arab Society; **Hani Jarjouri**, Manager of Resource Utilization and Economic Development at Shfar'am; **Michal Sella**, Executive Director of Givat Haviva; **Mohammad Darwashe**, Director of Strategy at Givat Haviva; **Nawa Jahshan Batshon**, CEO of Co-Impact; **Prof. Mona Khoury**, Vice President for Strategy and Diversity at The Hebrew University, Jerusalem; **Dr. Muhammed Khalaily**, Director of Qadaya and researcher at the IDI; **Raghad Jaraisy**, Co-Executive Director of Sikkuy-Aufoq; **Roeey Yessod**, Authority for the Economic Development of the Arab Sector; **Safa Abu Rabia**, Program Director at Yad Hanadiv; **Sami Assad**, CEO of Kav Mashve; **Shahira Shalaby**, Co-CEO of Abraham Initiatives; **Dr. Rana Zaher**, Linguistics and English Lecturer at Haifa University and Emek Yezreel College; **Dr. Yosepha Tabib-Calif**, VP for Strategy and Academic Programs at Rothschild Partnerships and Director of Gisha in Academia.

ISRAEL EDUCATION

In 2024, we worked closely with partners in the Israel education field to help meet new challenges following Oct 7. Through curated speaker programs, trainings, and new resources, we brought nuanced insights and perspectives from Arab society to hundreds of educators and learners.

To bridge a longstanding gap in experiential Israel education, we hired an Educational Programs Developer to connect sites in Arab communities to the educational travel ecosystem. Preparing sites for field encounters with young American Jews will not only meet growing demand for such content, it provides a new source of exposure, professional development, and revenue to host organizations and communities in Arab society.

KEY MILESTONES IN 2024



Organized two sessions for Taglit Birthright's Israel-based training of American trip staffers at Givat Haviva and Desert Stars.



Led a workshop at the Israel Education Travel Alliance (IETA) February conference on "Arab Citizens in Israel After October 7: Insights and Resources."



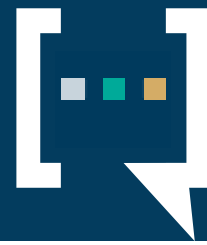
The iCenter's Conflict of Interest program alumni participated in a session on "Arab Citizens of Israel: Complex Identity in the Shadow of War."



At the Jewish Education Project Conference, we hosted the panel, "Insights from Changemakers and Tools for Educators."



Educational travel partners increasingly have been prioritizing opportunities to meet Arab leaders and witness shared society initiatives firsthand. In 2024, the Task Force organized our first **two field days for Hebrew Union College and UJA Federation of New York in Kfar Kassem and Jaljuliya**. We are working with partners and the municipalities to build capacity for regularly hosting groups.



The idea for the Speakers Fellowship, which prepares next generation changemakers from Arab society to learn about, speak and engage with American Jewish organizations, emerged in 2022 based on needs articulated by Israel education partners. Following October 7, 2023, the program became more timely than we could have anticipated. We are proud of how the Speakers Fellowship has become a source of agency, nuance, and even hope for Fellows, program partners and participants.

KEY MILESTONES IN 2024



- In 2024 the Fellows completed the training phase of the program and embarked on a 12-day speaking and learning tour in the United States. **The Fellows spoke at 17 events with 12 different partners, reaching 514 participants.** The programs spanned synagogues, community centers, federations, living rooms, bars, foundation offices, and more.
- From July 2024 to July 2026 the Fellows are part of a speaker's bureau, available to a range of learners—virtually, in person, and on experiential programs and mission visits to Israel. **In 2024, our speakers were in 18 programs, reaching 649 participants with 15 partner organizations.**

POST-PROGRAM EVALUATION INSIGHTS

[73%]

of participants felt "more optimistic about having constructive conversations about Israel across differences."

[96%]

of participants were glad they attended, and many emphasized the event's importance for the wider community.

[5 out of 7]

Fellows said the Fellowship provided space for self reflection post 10/7 and that it strengthen their understanding of their own identities.

The Speaker Fellowship is generously supported by the One8 Foundation, Crown Family Philanthropies, and Edmond de Rothschild Foundation (IL)

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, the Task Force expanded its resource suite with infographics and movie guides designed to enrich learning and engagement with Arab society in Israel. These resources support educators, program professionals, and diverse audiences—whether as part of structured programs, standalone learning, or broader curricula. Task Force resources have been distributed at the IETA Conference, JFN gatherings, the Other Israel Film Festival, and on platforms like the Jewish Education Project and the iCenter, a broad network of Jewish educators and learners.



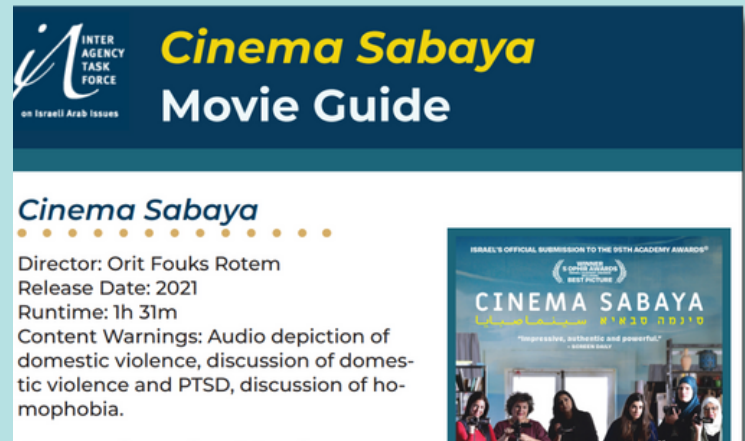
Infographic on the Bedouin Community in the Negev



Infographic on Druze Citizens of Israel



Madrasa Series Guide



Cinema Sabaya Movie Guide

INSIGHTS THAT RESONATED: MOST READ PUBLICATIONS

- Emergency Business Loans in Israel: Reaching Arab-Owned Businesses.
- Arab Society Navigating Trauma and Resilience.
- Listening Spaces Program for Arab Schools
- Funding Collaborative Focusing on Crime and Violence.
- Arab Society Amid the War: Employment and Economy

2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Over 130 participants from a range of organizations and foundations gathered for the Task Force's Annual Meetings in December.



This year's meetings featured a record number of Arab and Jewish speakers, enabling diverse voices, topics and connection opportunities. Through plenaries, breakouts, and roundtable discussions, American Jewish leaders, funders, and professionals explored urgent issues with partners from the field.

Breakouts spanned the conditions of Arab communities in the south and north, the persistent crisis of crime and violence, and the role of shared society leaders. Roundtables focused on what these realities mean for American Jewish communities grappling with Israel at war.



FOUNDATION FORUM: The following day 50 funders participated in in-depth learning about emergency response and preparedness capacities in Arab society, as well as and long-term field-building approaches to social and economic resilience for the "day after."

POST-PROGRAM REFLECTIONS

We asked participants 'Based on today's sessions, what new knowledge or action will you carry forward into your work?'

I have a much greater awareness of the different issues Arab Israeli communities are facing and their systemic impact.

Continuing to bring IATF's work to our community and thinking about how to make sure these perspectives are part of the discourse around Israel.

How important it is for infrastructure to be built around resilience in both Jewish and Arab societies.

Simply put - pushing forward these issues to the forefront of what we do and how we do what we do.

Thinking about how to bring Jewish and Arab social interaction back into the funding areas.

Looking for new ways to build shared society and even political partnership; looking for ways to strengthen organizations that seemed strong but still need help.

More opportunities to educate Jewish leaders on what is happening in the ground in Israel vis a vis shared society.

Work on integrating shared society work into other work to rebuild Israel post Oct 7.

2024 FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In 2023 and 2024, the Task Force continued to diversify our revenues through capacity building and program grants.

Grant funded programs include the Speaker Fellowship, and our work bringing Arab society into the educational tourism ecosystem. Support from UpStart is allocated towards strategic growth.

Member dues provide by far our largest portion of our core operating budget. New members and dues increases are vital to sustain our growing portfolios.

Annual dues from a wide coalition of American Jewish organizations also reflect the shared commitment to Arab citizen issues as a mainstream part of the American Jewish connection to Israel.

Thank you to all our members and partners for making this work possible.

INCOME	2023	2024
Carryover / Unused Restricted	\$183,936	\$324,262
Member Dues	\$630,183	\$614,995
Program Grants	\$233,529	\$90,941
Other	\$87,000	\$61,984
Income Total	\$1,134,649	\$1,092,182

EXPENSES	2023	2024
Personnel	\$703,042	\$742,491
Program Expenses	\$38,771	\$147,691
Overhead	\$18,574	\$26,561
Total Expenses	\$760,387	\$916,743

RESERVES	2023	2024
Cash	\$250,000	\$250,000

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Alan B. Slifka Foundation	Jewish Federation of St. Louis
Alfred and Hanna Fromm Fund	Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Alisa Doctoroff	Jewish Federations of North America
American Friends of Hand in Hand	Jewish Funders Network
American Friends of Hebrew University	Jewish United Fund of Chicago
American Friends of Kiddum / SAE	Jonathan Russo and Deborah Grayson
American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam	Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
American Jewish Committee	Klarman Family Foundation
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	Marcia's Light Foundation
American Society of the University of Haifa	Mimi and Peter Haas Fund
Anonymous	Morningstar Foundation
Anonymous	Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
Anti-Defamation League	National Council of Jewish Women
Arnow Family Fund	New Israel Fund
Carole Zabar	New Jewish Narrative
Caroline and Brian Lurie Philanthropic Fund	One8 Foundation
Central Conference of American Rabbis	Robert Kuchner & Phyllis Bernstein Philanthropic Fund (in memoriam)
Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston	Roni Rubenstein and Barry Berson Charitable Fund
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations	Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies	Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society
Diane and Guilford Glazer Philanthropies	The Abraham Initiatives
Fohs Foundation	The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore
Friends of Givat Haviva	The Charles H. Revson Foundation
Frieze Family Foundation	The CRB Family Foundation
Gimprich Family Foundation	The Gerard and Ruth Daniel Foundation, Inc and Friends of the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism
Greater Miami Jewish Federation	The Hadassah Foundation
Gilbert Foundation	The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation
Gimprich Family Foundation	The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life	The LunArt Fund
Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation	The Rayne Trust
Jewish Agency for Israel	The Russell Berrie Foundation
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund of San Francisco	The Schocken Foundation
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor	UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles	UJA-Federation of New York
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey	Union for Reform Judaism
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	The Wils Family Fund
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh	Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Jewish Federation of Greater Washington	
Jewish Federation of San Antonio	

2024 ACTIVITIES

Jan 07 -11 | The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society | Solidarity Mission

Jan 24 | Birthright Israel | Training for U.S. Madrichim at Desert Stars

Jan 25 | Field Day | AJEEC NISPED | Unrecognized Villages Leadership Program

Jan 29 | Jewish-Arab Relations: Shared Spaces in Divisive Times

Feb 04 | Congregation Beth Shalom (CBS) | The 21 Percent: Israel's Arab Citizens

Feb 07 | Birthright Israel | Training for U.S. Madrichim at Givat Haviva

Feb 13 | IATF Foundation Forum and The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society | Arab Citizen Employment Amid the War: Data, Trends, and Initiatives

Feb 21 | IATF Foundation Forum | Proposed Budget Cuts: 15% from Arab Development Plans

Feb 28 - Mar 01 | The Israel Educational Travel Alliance (IETA) | Inaugural Annual Conference | Workshop - Arab Citizens in Israel After October 7: Insights and Resources

Mar 12 | The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society | Board Mission

Mar 13 | Hebrew Union College | Field Day in Kfar Kassem and Jaljuliya

Mar 15 | Hebrew Union College | Iftar and Shabbat Dinner with Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel

Mar 20 | JFN International Conference | Workshop - Shared Society, Shared Recovery

Apr 16 | iCenter | Conflict of Interest (COI) Continued Learning - Alumni Session on Arab Citizens of Israel

Apr 17 | 2024 Municipal Elections in Arab Localities

May 28 | Dinner Reception for Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel

May 28 | New Israel Fund (NIF) | Changemakers Lunch for Arab/Palestinian Citizens of Israel and Jewish Progressive Organization Professionals

May 29 | B'nai Beshurun (BJ) | Israel at 76: Spotlight on Arab Citizens of Israel

May 29 | Marlene Meyerson JCC, Manhattan | Breakfast and Learn

May 29 | Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (COP) | Meeting with Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel

May 30 | IPF Atid and AJC ACCESS | Arab Citizens: Spotlight on Women's Leadership

May 30 | Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel: Educators Meeting with IATF Speaker Fellows

May 30 | UJA-Federation of New York (UJA-NY) | Roundtable Discussion with IATF Speaker Fellows

Jun 02 | Jewish Federation of Greater Washington | Brunch Salon with the Martel Family

Jun 03 | ALLMEP | Meeting with Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel

Jun 03 | IPF Atid D.C. and AJC ACCESS D.C. | Discussion with Arab Citizens of Israel: Visions and Realities

Jun 04 | Sixth&I | Conversation with Next Generation Arab Changemakers in Israel

Jun 04 | Jewish Federation of Greater Washington | Lunch & Learn: Arab Citizens of Israel

Jun 04 | IATF Speaker Fellowship - Meeting with D.C. Representatives of Major American Jewish Organizations

Jun 05 | iCenter | Interactive Workshop

Jun 06 | IPF Atid, Silverstein Base in Lincoln Park, Moishe House Lincoln Park, and Doppelt Base Andersonville | Evening Salon with IATF Speaker Fellows

Jun 06 | Lunch & Learn: Meet the IATF Speaker Fellows

Jun 08 | Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob | The 21%: Exploring the Experiences of Arab Citizens of Israel

Jun 13 | Tamid Group | How Inclusive is Israeli Tech?: Challenges and Opportunities

Jun 24 | Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion | Shapiro Fellowship tour in Kfar Qasem

Jun 27 | iCenter | Bedouin Experiences and Realities Post-Oct 7

Jul 03 | Hillel | Meeting with Next Generation Changemakers from Arab Society

Jul 09 | Jewish-Arab Relations on Israeli Campuses

Jul 23 | Jewish Federation of Palm Beach | Visit to Rahat

Jul 24 | Bronfman Youth Fellows | Introduction to Negev Bedouin

Aug 01 | Sunflowers | Extending Service for Orphaned Children to Bedouin Society

Sep 04 | IATF Foundation Forum | Field-Building for Crime Prevention in Arab Society

Sep 18 | Temple Beth Zion | Crime and Violence Funding Collaboration and Study Delegation

Sep 25 | UJA-Federation of New York (UJA-NY) | Mayors Meeting on Arab Community as Part of Israeli Resilience

Sep 30 | Congregation B'nai Israel | Responses to Bereavement in Israel and the Palestinian Territories: Perspectives of Arab Citizens of Israel

Oct 01 | Escalation in the North: Spotlight on Arab Communities

Oct 15 | IATF Foundation Forum | Emergency Social Loans Reaching Arab-Owned Businesses

Oct 30 | IATF Foundation Forum | Field-Building for Crime Prevention: Research and Cross-Sectoral Learning

Nov 12 | IATF Foundation Forum | Project Wadi Attir Post-Oct 7

Nov 18 | The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society | 121 Engine for Social Change

Nov 19 | The Jewish Education Project Conference | Arab Citizens in the Shadow of War: Insights from Changemakers and Tools for Educators

Nov 20 | IATF Foundation Forum | Leadership Gap-Year in Arab Society: Impact Study

Dec 07 | Other Israel, Hand in Hand | Madrasa Q+A Session

Dec 09 | Other Israel, The Abraham Initiatives | Palestinian-identifying Citizens of Israel in a Post-October 7 World: A Conversation with the Abraham Initiatives

Dec 11 | 2024 Annual Meeting | Jewish-Arab Realities in Israel

Dec 12 | The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society and IATF Foundation Forum | Jewish-Arab Realities in Israel

Dec 13 | Moishe House, Somerville | Shabbat Dinner with Arab Changemakers from Israel

Dec 14 | Temple Beit Abraham - Nashua, NH | Perspectives from Arab Citizen Changemakers

Dec 15 | Hebrew College, Boston | Lunch&Learn with Arab/Palestinian Changemakers in Israel

Dec 16 | IPF Atid Boston | Breaking Barriers: Arab Israeli Voices in Journalism and Tech

Dec 16 | Gann Academy | Perspectives from Arab Citizen Changemakers

Dec 19 | iCenter | Interactive Discussion with Arab Citizen Changemakers