

**VISION
FOR A BETTER ISRAEL
VALUES
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
IMPACT
BECAUSE YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

New Israel Fund UK Annual Report 2008

New Israel Fund
for equality & social justice

DEAR FRIENDS

We would like to thank all of you who have continued to support NIF during these challenging times. This is a moment of opportunity as well as uncertainty and, as you will see in this report, we are delighted to report that NIF, SHATIL and our family of grantees are again making significant progress in a number of critical areas.

Uncertainty and fear can easily be the initiators of extremism and hatred. We are organising coalitions of long-time residents and new Israelis, secular and religious, social activists and business people to reject extremism and ultra-nationalism. We are working overtime to assist Israel's most critically-needed organisations survive the economic crisis so that they, in turn, can assist the underprivileged and marginalised who are most at risk. We are defending Israeli democracy from the mindset that demands that there is only one uncritical, unquestioning way to be "pro-Israel." Most importantly, given the tensions that have been promoted by short sighted xenophobia on all sides, it has been vital to expand our work in encouraging Arabs and Jews to live together in Israel's mixed cities.

**NEW ISRAEL FUND IS THE
LEADING ORGANISATION
COMMITTED TO EQUALITY
AND DEMOCRACY FOR
ALL ISRAELIS**



We continue to support some 200 organisations a year despite the constraints on funding. This has been made possible by your continuing support, but at the same time SHATIL has also been working hard to help grantees to improve their management practices to reduce costs and to co-operate where possible. This report provides current financial information and an update about our achievements on some of our key important issues including civil rights, social justice, and religious pluralism.

Please join with the New Israel Fund to say yes to a better Israel. We know this is a difficult year for many people, but if you are in a position to increase your contribution, and even better to recruit your friends and family members to the New Israel Fund family, we will be especially grateful for your efforts.

We're counting on you to help us make a critical difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Saphir', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nicholas Saphir
Chairman NIF UK

NIF MISSION: OUR 30TH YEAR

The **New Israel Fund (NIF)** is the leading organisation advancing democracy and equality for all Israelis. NIF UK is part of this international partnership. We believe that Israel can live up to its founders' vision of a state that ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants, without regard to religion, race or gender.

Widely credited with building Israel's progressive civil society from scratch, we have provided more than £140 million to more than 800 cutting-edge organisations since our inception. We fight inequality, injustice and extremism because we understand that justice is the precondition for a successful democracy – and the only lasting road to peace. The New Israel Fund's founders wanted to connect with Israel in a way that reflected their progressive values, and thousands of Israelis and Diaspora Jews have joined with us for that reason. Our supporters love Israel, and see it clearly as striving for an ideal not yet attained.

Visit www.newisraelfund.org.uk to learn more, and to join the growing community of progressive supporters of Israel who think for themselves about Israel's future.



SHATIL



NIF is at philanthropy's cutting edge thanks in large part to **SHATIL**, the New Israel Fund Initiative for Social Change. NIF founded SHATIL in 1982 to complement its grant-making and provide NIF grantees and other social change organisations with hands-on assistance, training, resources and workshops on various aspects of nonprofit management.

SHATIL employs more than 100 ethnically diverse professionals, support staff and interns, with offices in Jerusalem, Haifa, Beer Sheva, Lod, Baqa Algharbiya and Rosh Pinah, serving nearly 1,400 organisations. SHATIL has gained international respect for its innovative work and official UN recognition as an NGO advancing issues of interest to the UN.

SHATIL's work brings together organisations in large coalitions to accomplish what no single group can achieve on its own. It also carries out special projects to foster citizen action on issues and among population groups neglected by other institutions. Today, SHATIL often takes the initiative in spearheading national advocacy and emergency campaigns.



ISSUE UPDATE

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Israel's democracy is vibrant and spirited, but sustaining it takes hard work and commitment from both progressive Israelis and their supporters around the world.

This year saw the call for loyalty oaths for Arab citizens and the potential denaturalisation of at least a portion of Israel's Arab population. Israel's High Court, the last line of defence for human and civil rights, is still at risk of

the politicisation of its critically-needed judicial independence. The continued Orthodox monopoly

of the Rabbinate over life-cycle events continues the severe infringement of religious and personal freedom for the vast majority of Israelis.

No one organisation can tackle these threats alone, and that is why the New Israel Fund is so necessary. The coalitions we build, the organisations we empower, the activists we train, and the spectrum of skills and views we represent help guarantee democracy. The NIF commitment to democratic values in action is demonstrated by 30 years of significant achievement.



SHARED SOCIETY

The 2008 Yom Kippur riots in Akko were a wake-up call for everyone concerned about Jewish-Arab relations within Israel. In one of Israel's five mixed Jewish-Arab cities, the Akko riots reflected the strained relations between the two peoples throughout the country. An emphasis on shared society and what this means in theory and practice is now a top priority for the New Israel Fund.

Since 2003, NIF/SHATIL'S widely acclaimed Mixed Cities Project has been active in promoting equality in Israel's mixed cities. As the only major organisation with a significant focus and presence in all of Israel's mixed cities, NIF/SHATIL knows that tackling these societal divides is imperative to the health of Israeli democracy. Since its establishment, the Project has successfully frozen home demolition orders, established neighborhood residential forums promoting housing and education rights, and advocated for fair allocations of public funding and services for all residents.



ENVIRONMENT

Water shortages, headlong development of green spaces and severe industrial pollution have led to staggering environmental losses. NIF aims to achieve environmental justice for all Israeli citizens by promoting the environmental agenda and thus securing the health and prosperity of future generations.

For the last two decades, NIF has helped develop, strengthen, and unify the environmental movement in Israel by seeding and supporting environmental organisations, and working to ensure a knowledgeable public. NIF is a founding partner of the Green Environment Fund which makes grants of over £625,000 each year to professional and grassroots organisations that address issues of open spaces, water resources, air pollution and environmental education. Grantees work to raise awareness in areas of both peripheral communities and major cities.

In 2008 the efforts of GEF grantees, such as Green Course, were in large part responsible for securing the Clean Air Law; setting out regulatory procedures for monitoring air quality and stipulating fines for pollutants.

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

NIF is at the forefront of efforts to move Israel towards a multi-faceted society that accepts alternative expressions of Jewish identity and practices. From advancing recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions, to providing a place for civil marriage, securing state funds for pluralistic Jewish education and promoting women's rights, both in a positive religious setting and protecting their legal and Halachic position in society.

NIF's Jewish Renewal Program supports the underrepresented secular Jews in Israel today by giving them the opportunity to reconnect to their Jewish roots more, thus re-affirming their Jewish identity.

Grantees of NIF are also leading the struggle to find solutions for women whose husbands will not or cannot grant them a *get* (Jewish divorce). NIF work tirelessly to promote the rights of Jewish women in Israel. This year alone, over 100 applications have been received for a small grants pool supporting grassroots business initiatives for Orthodox women across the country.



2008 ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are a few examples of the New Israel Fund family's many achievements in 2008. For current coverage of NIF's activities and accomplishments, please visit our website, www.newisraelfund.org.uk and sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter.



Civil and Human Rights

A senior Tel Aviv Municipality official has agreed that all future maintenance tenders will contain clauses which ensure contractors are committed to pay employees of subcontractors their full salary and entitlements. The move came in response to a petition from NIF grantee **Kav LaOved – Worker's Hotline**, which highlighted the fact that many immigrants and refugees employed by subcontractors to undertake work for the city had not been paid their salaries.

Following the 2007 protests by **Follow-Up Committee for Arab Education**, the Education Ministry began implementing a ILS 1.1 billion plan to build nearly 10,000 new classrooms in Israeli Arab schools by 2012. The Ministry also accepted the Committee's recommendations to strengthen the Arab-language curriculum in Israeli-Arab schools.

Women's Rights

An amendment to the Spouses Property Law will put an end to a husband's ability to demand all the couple's assets before agreeing to a divorce. The law, which enables the civil courts to divide assets before the rabbinical courts grant a religious divorce, was formulated and lobbied for by the **International Coalition for Agunah Rights**.

Environment

Israel's green movement scored a major victory with the passage of the Clean Air Law, which sets strict emission standards and procedures for monitoring air quality. **NIF/Green Environment Fund** grantees the **Israel Union of Environmental Defence** and **Green Course** joined with other NGOs to lobby and demonstrate for the law's enactment.

Religious Pluralism

NIF grantee, the **Centre for Women's Justice**, appealed to Israel's High Court against the Rabbinical Court of Appeals decision to nullify thousands of Orthodox conversions performed by the Israeli government's Conversion Authority. In the wake of the annulment controversy, NIF worked to strengthen and expand liberal Orthodox organisations and empower coalitions working against religious coercion and extremism.

Social Justice

During the coldest January in Israel in 30 years, and with homelessness on the rise, NIF grantees advocated for a new law to prevent the growing numbers of Israelis defaulting on their mortgages from losing their homes. The Knesset Committee accepted the arguments of NIF grantees **Yedid: The Association for Community Empowerment** and the **Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)** that throwing families onto the street was not acceptable in humanitarian terms.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008

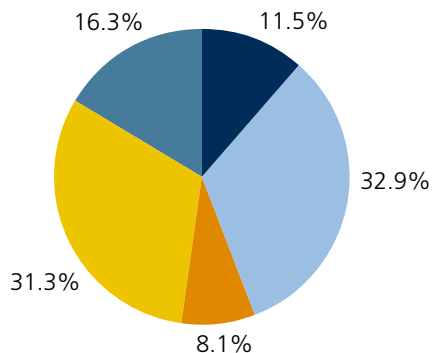
	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £
Contributions	1,282,187	1,086,466	934,525
Investment Income	9,733	4,188	10,510
	1,291,920*	1,090,654**	945,262
Transferred to Grantees	893,667	728,522	504,836
Shatil	102,723	22,950	
Civil and Human Rights	293,804	178,964	129,054
Religious Pluralism & Tolerance	72,034	65,243	57,748
Social and Economic Gaps	279,706	406,301	273,198
Environment	145,400	55,064	44,836
Educational Programme Expenditure	165,200	119,049	145,265
Cost of Generating Funds	121,861	153,151	114,863
Management and Administration	92,735	75,008	165,001
Surplus/(deficit) for the Year	13,457	14,924	15,297

* In 2008 additional contributions in the amount of £70,242 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors.

** In 2007 additional contributions in the amount of £50,027 were received by NIF US directly from UK donors.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT UK EXPENDITURE 2008

■ Shatil	11.5%
■ Civil and Human Rights	32.9%
■ Religious Pluralism & Tolerance	8.1%
■ Social and Economic Gaps	31.3%
■ Environment	16.3%
Total	100%



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