

### **Hanan Alsanah, Itach Ma'aki**

Att. Hanan Alsanah is a Bedouin mother of 4 and a lawyer working with Itach-Ma'aki - Women Lawyers for Social Justice, where she directs the Bedouin Women's Rights Center. She has been working for women's rights for the past two decades, with emphasis on Bedouin women's empowerment. She is an activist and social entrepreneur and holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.M.) degree.

She has worked in the Negev's unrecognized Bedouin villages, as co-director of the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality and director of education and community development at Sidreh and established the first women's community center in an unrecognized village in the Negev. Through projects she has led, over 3,500 Bedouin women have participated in educational and leadership courses, and more than 5,000 women were economically empowered. She established the first feminist Arabic Language Newspaper in Israel, distributed to over 45 villages in the Negev, paving the way for women into the media.

In 2005, Alsanah was the first Bedouin woman representative at the UN's CEDAW committee, advocating against gender discrimination, leading to the publication of a report on Bedouin women regarding matrimonial law, employment, housing and home demolitions. At the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues she was invited to present the module she created for working in cooperation with men for the empowerment of women in traditional and conservative communities. She has also recently been selected to head the women's council of the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel.

### **Shir Nosatzky, Have You Seen the Horizon Lately?**

Shir Nosatzki is a journalist turned activist, when in 2011 she was one of the leaders of the (then) largest protest in Israel, demanding social justice. Throughout the years, she continued her work, and in 2017 she founded *Have You Seen the Horizon Lately?*, which works to promote Jewish-Arab partnership, and strengthen the political legitimacy of the Arab community as an equal partner in the decision making processes in Israel. The organization's work includes extensive social and media campaigns and is deeply rooted in the most sensitive and contentious issues of the ever-changing Israeli reality. The tools and methods are continuously adapted to the different issues addressed.

During the largest protests in Israeli history, against the government's attempted judicial overhaul, Nosatzki took on a major role in the protest leadership, incorporating Arab voices, as well as issues relevant to the Israeli Arab community, into the demonstrations and corresponding public discourse.

Since October 7th, Nosatzki and her team have been leading a campaign to showcase the stories of Jewish-Arab partnership in Israel, including stories of heroism and bravery of Arab citizens who stepped up to save Israeli lives during the Hamas massacre, at the cost of risking their own.

Nosatzki won the Dror Prize for Social Change, was elected by The Marker newspaper as one of the most influential people on social media in Israel, and by the Maariv newspaper as an emerging young leader, and is the recipient of NIF's 2023 [Guardian of Democracy prize](#).

### **Nasreen Hadad Haj'Yahya, The Portland Trust, NAS Consulting**

Dr. Nasreen Haddad Haj'Yahya is one of the leading researchers in Israel on Arab society's economic and social development, on related governmental policies and on majority-minority relations in Israel. Nasreen is the Co-Founder of NAS ("People" in Arabic), an Arab-Jewish consultancy, with expertise in mapping data, discourse, needs and potential partners in the field, in building innovative and culturally-adapted models, and in creating an informed and fruitful partnership between state bodies, business entities, philanthropic actors and Arab society itself. Nasreen was deeply involved in building and formulating the Israeli government's major decisions related to the development of Arab society, especially as they relate to employment, education, and the younger generation in Arab society, which are her unique fields of expertise. In addition, Nasreen is a Partner at the Portland Trust and member of several civil society boards. She is the former Director of the Arab-Jewish Relations Program at the Israel Democracy Institute and leading Israeli newspapers have named her as one of the most influential activists and "changemakers" in the country. Her PhD dissertation from Tel-Aviv University focuses on Arab young adults in Israel. She is committed to creating an egalitarian future for Arab society in Israel, for her three girls and for all Israeli citizens.

### **Tomer Lotan, former Director General, Ministry of Internal Security**

Tomer Lotan is a distinguished professional with a diverse background in public policy and governance. As the Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Public Security in 2021-2022, he oversaw Israel's law enforcement agencies, including the Police, the National Prison Service, the National Fire & Rescue Service, and the Witness Protection Authority. His achievements include designing and implementing the national program to combat crime and violence in the Arab sector, which led to a successful drop in crime ratios and victims. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tomer served as the Executive Director and Policy Chief of the National Coronavirus Task Force ("Magen Israel") at the Israeli Ministry of Health.

Tomer has held numerous leadership roles in civil society. As Executive Director of the Citizens' Empowerment Center in Israel (CECI), Tomer initiated a comprehensive set of monitoring and measuring tools to increase the effectiveness and transparency of the public sector. In his position at JDC-Israel, he directed the Center for Local Government Regional Development, focusing on social and economic growth through newly established regional platforms of cooperation. He also founded and chaired the "Maas" organization, dedicated to strengthening the Israeli civil service by integrating young talent into the public sector.

Tomer completed his MSc in Social Policy & Planning at the London School of Economics and Political Science funded by a prestigious Chevening scholarship from the British Council. His dissertation, focusing on innovative strategies to fight inequality, earned him a distinction. Tomer earned an M.A. in Public Policy from Tel-Aviv University. He is a fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, and at the Institute for National Security Studies.

## **Maisam Jaljuli, Tsofen**

Ms. Maisam Jaljuli is a social feminist and political activist. For many years, she has been deeply involved in the promotion of workers' rights, women's rights, and a shared and equal society for Arabs and Jews. Before becoming the CEO at Tsofen, Jaljuli served as Chairperson of the women's organization Na'amat while also serving as co-Chair of the Sikkuy-Aufoq organization and as a board member of tach-Ma'aki - Women Lawyers for Social Justice. Ms. Jaljuli is a board member of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and leader in the grassroots movement 'Standing Together'. Ms. Jaljuli is a recipient of the New Israel Fund's Gallanter Prize for inspiring social leadership and of the Walking Man award for activism. She holds a B.A. in Criminology and Sociology, and an M.A. in Educational Leadership and lives in Tirah with her husband and their three children.

## **Shahira Shalaby, IATF and The Abraham Initiatives**

Shahira joined the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues (IATF) in 2022 as Content Expert and Field Representative. In this role, she serves as a bridge between the civil society field in Israel and American Jewish communities and brings educational content to funders, educators, and Jewish communal professionals. She comes with decades of dynamic experience as a civil society and community leader dedicated to improving the lives of Arab citizens of Israel. Since July 2023, Shahira is also the Co-Deputy Executive Director of Programs at The Abraham Initiatives where she develops and advances strategic initiatives and coalitions to strengthen Jewish-Arab relations locally, regionally, and nationally in Israel. Shahira is on the Haifa City Council and previously served as Haifa's Deputy Mayor. She has held several key managerial roles at numerous social service organizations, including helping establish the Hiwar School for Alternative Education in Haifa. Previously, Shahira directed Shatil's Shared Society Department for ten years and she co-founded Kayan, the first Palestinian feminist organization in Israel. She was on the faculty of the Mandel Center for Leadership in the North and managed its local leadership programs. Shahira holds an M.A. in Religious Studies and a B.A. in Social Work. She is a trained organizational consultant, group facilitator, and trainer specializing in dialogue, conflict, and conflict resolution.

## **Ahmad Muhana, Qudra**

Ahmad Muhana is the director of Qudra - Arab Philanthropists Network working to build and strengthen Arab responsibility and communal resilience through strategic giving. During the COVID crisis, Ahmad served as a consultant for the senior government staff responsible for the Arab Sector. In the past, Ahmad founded and ran Amanina - an organization committed to building volunteer networks in Arab communities. Before that, Ahmad was the parliamentary advisor for MK Ahmad Tibi. He was selected for Calcalist's 36 Under 36 social influencers and Globes' 40 under 40 up and coming leaders. He is a lawyer, and he completed his M.A. in NGO management at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was born and raised in Um El Fahem and currently lives in Jerusalem with his family. He is the father to Omar and Nour.

## **Sarit Benshimon-Peleg**

Dr. Sarit Benshimon-Peleg is a public policy researcher with expertise in civil society organizations, philanthropy, and governance. Until recently, she served as Deputy Director of Research at the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research. Prior to this position, Sarit developed programs in the field of governance in Arab local authorities as part of a research project at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, led the development process of new projects at the Center for Citizen Empowerment, and was responsible for measurement and

evaluation at Yad Hanadiv between 2014-2016. She has served as a consultant on collaborative processes and inter-sectoral processes for government ministries. Between 2007-2014 Sarit was the Academic Director of the Harold Hartog School of Government and Policy at Tel Aviv University and Head of Governance. In this capacity, she also developed and managed the academic program of the "Interface" program for applying science in government. Sarit holds a BA in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in Political Science from Oxford University in England. Her doctoral dissertation deals with the question of the justification of universal human rights in a multicultural world. She is a graduate of the Heschel Center for Environmental Leadership Fellowship Program and holds a diploma in social project evaluation from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

### **Yael Neeman, Lautman Foundation**

Yael has been the CEO of the Lautman Foundation since its inception in 2008. A lawyer, teacher and educator with a BA in Law and MA in Criminology from the Hebrew University. Yael is a graduate of the Mandel Leadership Institute's School for Educational Leadership and has previously worked in NGOs and at the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) where she developed programs for children with special needs. The Lautman Foundation deals with two major issues: education and shared society. In both fields the foundation is involved in initiating, developing and supporting initiatives on the national level. In education: the foundation aims to bridge gaps and improve education through working with school principals, youth and young adults in the periphery; in the shared society field: the foundation works to promote social cohesion and towards strengthening democracy. The Lautman Foundation works with partners from a range of sectors including the Israeli government.