



Highlights of 2015

Mossawa Center

The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel



Mission Statement

The Mossawa Center, the Advocacy Center for Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel, is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1997 that aims to promote the economic, social, cultural and political rights of the Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel, and the recognition of this community as a national indigenous minority, with their own national, cultural and historical distinctiveness. The Center develops programs to promote a democratic society, and acts against all forms of discrimination based on race, nationalism, religious affiliation, social status, gender, and disabilities.

In advancing its mission of promoting the Palestinian Arab minority's rights, the Mossawa Center utilizes various methods, including governmental advocacy in the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) and government, international advocacy with a particular focus in Europe, the United States, and South Africa, socio-economic research and budget analysis, media campaigns, capacity building with a broad network of Arab NGOs, and cooperative work with local councils as well as Israeli-based and international NGOs.



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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of Mossawa,

Our community faces a long list of challenges amidst the isolation Israel is projecting and has projected ever since its establishment in 1948. 2015 was a year full of new provocations and confrontations for the Palestinian Arab community in Israel, as well as successes in Mossawa's struggle to promote the social, political, economic, and cultural rights of this community.

From the unification of all Arab political parties to one Joint List as a result of the rise of the electoral threshold, to its success in becoming the third largest political power in the Israeli Knesset after the March 2015 elections, to struggles over new discriminatory legislation such as the Transparency Law, or the State Development Budget Allocation for the years 2015-2016, to the successful one-month long strike of 49 Arab schools with 33000 students not attending school in September due to budget cuts and discriminatory budget allocations to Arab schools.

The Mossawa Center managed to promote Palestinian culture and the right to preserve our culture and heritage with the annual Palestinian Culture month in March 2015 for the fourth consecutive year. Mossawa also successfully held its annual conference on the legal Status of the Arab community in Israel in December.

We will continue to protect our community from systematical discrimination and promote our rights until justice and equality are reached.

Thank you for your support and solidarity.

Sincerely,

Jafar Farah,
Director of the Mossawa Center



Mossawa's achievements in numbers



Mossawa's achievements in Numbers

As a result of Mossawa's advocacy...

Early childhood centers

- **21 applications** were submitted by Arab Local Councils to the Ministry of Economy and approved for the creation of early childhood centers.
- **200 million shekels** were allocated for Early Childhood Centers in Arab localities

Culture Budget

- **3.7 million NIS** were allocated by the Ministry of Culture to the culture budget for the Arab community

Allocations to church schools

- **50 million NIS** were allocated to Palestinian Church-owned schools in Israel after a 30-day long strike carried out by 49 schools and intensive lobbying efforts by the Mossawa Center in the Knesset.

International Community

- **Over 30 MEPs** and many other EU and European government officials met with the Mossawa Center on expanding support to the Palestinian community in Israel

1. Socio-Economic Justice and Economic Development

The Arab citizens in Israel have been largely left behind in the country's overall socio-economic development. A 2015 report by the OECD found Israel to have one of the most unequal economies in the western world. Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel comprise approximately 20% of the population, yet in 2015 the state allocated to them less than 6% of the state development budget. A Government decision announced in December 2015 to allocate an additional 9 to 15 billion NIS over 5 years to the Arab community has yet to be finalized or implemented. Given the disproportionate budget allocation in comparison to the size of the Arab population, it is clear that the Israeli government has not truly invested in alleviating the disadvantages of the Arab minority.

The Mossawa Center addresses socio-economic issues for Arab citizens in Israel through advocacy in the Knesset on the State development Budget and increasing allocations to the Arab community. Mossawa follows up on government decisions and uses litigation in the Israeli court systems another means to fight for economic justice for Arab citizens. In addition, the Mossawa Center fights poverty and improves employment opportunities for Arab women through assisting Arab local councils in applying for government funding for various development purposes, including the establishment of Early Childhood Centers. Mossawa coordinates trainings for Arab social workers to assist Arab families in family budgeting and other matters with the aim to decrease poverty among the Arab community. Furthermore, Mossawa has designed a unique training program for Arab women in order to advance their status in the society and enable them to run for local elections and other decision-making positions.

Creating the Future Vision of the Palestinian Community in Israel

Workshops on Current and Future Challenges of the Palestinian Community in Israel

The Mossawa Center held workshops on current and future challenges facing the Arab community and methods to overcome them. The workshops took place on 29.10.15, 29.12 and 30.12.15 , and hosted different experts in the Arab community including: researchers, academics, lawyers,



representatives of Arab civil society organizations, business men and women, physicians, as well as Arab members of the Knesset and the chairperson of the High Follow Up Committee for Arab Citizens. The workshops were concluded with a series of

recommendations that form a work plan and strategies for the development of the Arab community. The work plan includes projects in the legal and public spheres, as well as in international advocacy and economic development. These projects are to be implemented within the next ten years in order to close the gaps between the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel and bring meaning to Israel's definition of a democratic state.

Mossawa Brings Arab Community's Economic Issues to the Israeli Knesset

Conferences on the State Budget Allocations to Israel's Palestinian Community

On June 16th and November 9th of 2015 the Mossawa Center held two conferences in cooperation with the National Committee for the Heads of Arab Local Authorities and MKs Dr. Basel Ghattas and Dr. Ahmad Tibi from the Knesset Finance Committee.

The conferences, entitled “The Budgetary Needs of the Arab Community and the Creation of the State Budget for 2015-2016”, presented Mossawa’s research and findings on the gaps between Arabs and



Jewish citizens and the budget necessary for closing the gaps.

Both conferences were attended by different MKs, including: Ayman Odeh, Aida Tuma Sliman, Dov Hanin, Dr. Youssef Jabareen, and the Minister of Social Equality MK Gila Gamliel, the head of Knesset Finance Committee MK Moshe Gafni, director of budgets for the Ministry of Finance, Amir Levi, as well as heads of Arab local authorities, representatives of different civil society organizations, and representatives of different embassies.

Advancing Arab Women in Leadership Positions

Mossawa placed a special focus on women in 2015, and worked to empower Arab women and build their capacities as politicians and leading entrepreneurs. Workshops were held on capacity building for women in different fields, including: media, public speaking, and running a successful elections campaign. Mossawa succeeded in encouraging and increasing women's political participation, and as a result of Mossawa's efforts in promoting and empowering Arab women, Dr. Nehaya Habib became the first women councilor at Taybeh Local Authority in the 2015 local elections. Dr. Habib has since focused on empowering other women in her locality and surrounding community, and allocated funds from the government for building Early Childhood Centers in Taybeh.

Arab Women Councilors Under the Spotlight

In an effort to highlight the achievements of women leaders and women councilors among the Arab community, Mossawa published 11 social media profile pages for women councilors and a page for the efforts and activities that Mossawa is carrying out to promote the status of Arab women. Many articles were published on Arab women council members and on the actions that they have taken for the development of their society and locality.. Mossawa worked to provide consultation to women leaders in setting up different projects and arranging for interviews with journalists with the aim of exposing and publicizing the efforts of women councilors, and encourage other women to follow their footsteps..



Early Childhood Centers Are Now in Arab Localities

The Mossawa Center views early childhood centers as a necessity for both economic development and the advancement of Arab women. The establishment of early childhood centers allows Arab mothers to attain a job to support their families, which assists in fighting poverty among the Arab community, and eventually leads to economic development. As a result of Mossawa Center's advocacy efforts for an increase in the funding for Arab localities,

400 million NIS were allocated for the establishment of early childhood centers in Arab villages and cities.

Mossawa successfully assisted and trained Arab women councilors

to apply for

government funding and permits to plan early childhood centers. Mossawa followed up with Over 30 Local Councils on the matter of Early Childhood Centers in Arab villages and cities, supported them in the preparation of the applications, followed their submission, continued to follow up with the approval of the applications by the Ministry of Economy. As a result, 33 of the applications submitted by Arab local councils were approved for the planning process, out of which 21 were approved for building.



Mossawa supported the preparation of different applications and project planning, and followed their submission; some of these projects were led by the women Councilors. Madiha Rammal from Acre municipality worked on the matter of Early Childhood Centers in her locality, and has successfully achieved a planning permit. Currently, Acre is in process of attaining budgets for building.



Council member Areen Abdi from Haifa who worked on the Early Childhood Centers, has managed to attain a building permit and a budget. Currently, Haifa municipality is looking to allocate space for the facility. Another council woman in Haifa is helping a school in Halisa neighborhood build a football field; pave the school yard at the same school, and is in the process of getting approval from the municipality to allocate more funds to the school annually.

2. Legal Justice



The Mossawa Center strives to achieve legal justice for Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel. Arab citizens are discriminated against in the Israeli legal system, and are considered second-class citizens in relation to Israel's Jewish majority. Arab citizens are not only subject to widespread discriminatory administrative practices, but they are also the target of the discriminatory laws and policies of the Israeli government legislated by the Knesset. The two main forms of advocacy Mossawa uses to work towards equal legal rights of Arab citizen are government advocacy and litigation in the Israeli court system to protect the collective and individual rights of Arab citizens. Mossawa monitors the Knesset and acts against any new discriminatory legislation or government policies through position papers submitted to Knesset members and ministers, conferences held in the Knesset that create pressure on the system, and cooperation with Arab members of the Knesset. Mossawa is working towards the recognition of Arab citizens as a national indigenous minority with their own national, cultural, and historical distinctiveness.

Mossawa Brings the Legal Status of the Arab Community to Local and International Community

On December 4th 2015, Mossawa held its annual Conference on the Legal status of the Arab Community in Israel. The conference raises awareness of issues facing the Arab community and threatening their legal status. The conference included a panel of speakers consisting of experts, politicians, journalists and academics from both the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel. The 2015 conference was attended by over 250 people, and opening remarks were made by the EU Head of Delegation, Mr. Lars Faaborg-Andersen, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Shigeo Matsutomi, Head of the High Follow up Committee for Arab Citizens and former Knesset member Mr. Mohamed Barakeh, as well as the director of the Mossawa Center Mr. Jafar Farah.



Following opening remarks, journalist, Jackie Khoury, moderated the main panel whose panelists included; MK Dr. Bassel Ghattas, MK Dr. Yousef Jabareen, MK Zuheir Bahloul, former PA minister Maher Ghoneim, Author Mr. Muhamed Ali Taha and counselor from the

Japanese Embassy, Mr. Katsunobu Takada. The Panelists spoke about the legal status and role of the Arab community in designing a shared future.

Three simultaneous panels took place: the speakers addressed the issue of the impact of the appointment of Arab citizens in decision-making positions in various government institutions.

Amy Palmer, Justice Ministry director-general participated in the debate along with the chairman of the Northern district Bar Association, Adv. Khaled Zoabi, Chairperson of the Committee on the status of women, MK Aida Touma, MK Yossi Yona and Attorney Sawsan Qasim, director of the legal department of the National Insurance institute in Haifa. During the discussion panelists touched on the subject of the lack of Judges from the Arab community in the various courts. Arab citizens make up 20% of the population but only 7.7% of Judges or 52 out of 672 come from the Arab community. Only one Arab citizen sits in the Supreme Court and only 10 in the district courts. In the last 8 years 92 judges have been appointed but only 12 from the Arab community.

Another of the simultaneous panels was on the influence of economic policies on the development of the Arab community.

Panelists included; MK Abd Al Hakeen Haj Yahya, Dr. SuhaJubran, Mr. SuheilKaram, Adv. MudarYounis, Mr. Ala' Gantos. Panelists discussed economic legislation such as the tax preferences law, the gas bill and changes in planning and construction in the state budget. The budget for 2015-2016 exceeded 800 billion shekels but the Arab community received less than 7% of these funds.

The third panel discussed the rising tension between state institutions and the Arab community. Mossawa director, Mr. Jafar Farah moderated the panel. Panelists included; Dr. Louie Zreik, an expert in labor laws, Adv. Abeer Baker, a human rights activist, Adv. Suhad

Bishara from Adalah and Adv. Omar Khamaisi from Mezan.



Mossawa Brings Matters of the Arab Community to the Israeli Court System

Ongoing Battle with the Ministry of Culture

Budgets allocated to the culture sector of the Arab community stands at approximately 3% while the Arab community consists of 20% of the state population. The discrimination in budget allocation has caused Arab culture institutions to be on the verge of collapsing. In order to address this issue, the Mossawa Center cooperated with the National Committee for the Heads of Arab Local Authorities and the Forum for Arab Culture Organizations in order to submit a petition against the Ministry of Culture and Minister for Culture at the Supreme Court. The Mossawa Center managed to prove the discriminatory budget allocation in court, and the Supreme Court ordered the Ministry of Culture to conduct a mapping and a comprehensive survey on Arab cultural needs. The court contracted Ms. Souad Naser to conduct the mapping of Arab culture needs in 52 Arab localities as requested by Mossawa.

Ms. Naser is a local artist and manager of the Center for Planning & Urban Studies based in Haifa.

After the mapping was presented, the court ordered the Ministry of Culture to present a new plan for distribution of the funds which will result in an increase in the budget allocated to the Arab community. As a result of the pressure on the Ministry of Culture, it has so far added 3.7 million NIS to the culture budget for the Arab population. Mossawa's advocacy efforts managed to almost double the culture budget for the Arab community, increasing the amount from 11.5 million NIS to 20.5 million NIS throughout 2015. This amount however is not enough to close the gaps in culture between the Arab and Jewish communities, and Mossawa's goal to increase the culture budget allocated to the Arab community to reach 50 million NIS remains a main advocacy focus.

3. International Advocacy

The Mossawa Center aims to engage and expose the international community to the state of human rights of the Arab minority in Israel, the challenges they face as a national indigenous minority in a Jewish country, as well as their potential in ending the Israeli occupation. The International advocacy department highlights the crucial importance of the Arab minority to regional peace and reconciliation. It is important that issues of Arab citizens in Israel and the importance of their role in peace building remains in the for-front of the agendas of international actors such as the European Union and the United States. Arab leaders such as MKs of the Joint list need to be more involved in international advocacy and to be taken seriously by the international community. In addition, the importance of international support is highlighted for the promotion of human rights and in preventing the escalation of inter-ethnic conflict between the majority of the Jewish population and the Arab community in Israel. EU institutions are informed of the effects of EU/Israel agreements on the Arab community as well as the potential outcome of strengthening regional networks and Middle Eastern organizations to promote regional peace.

In 2015 the Mossawa Center increased its advocacy efforts in Europe, placing particular focus on Brussels. This resulted in publications from two European Parliament parties stating their intention to increase cooperation with the Arab minority in Israel, stressing the importance of their rights as a minority, as well as an invitation for the Mossawa Center's director to speak at a conference of the EU Delegation for Relations with Israel. Embassies, foreign ministries and international news outlets used our publications for reporting and influencing policy with Israel.

Increasing cooperation with the International Community

Year round, the Mossawa Center hosts activists and academics from international organizations, Universities, NGO's and religious groups. The Mossawa Center reaches out to the international community by informing them of the problems faced by the Arab community as a result of systematic discrimination and racism. Specific issues presented to groups are; socio-economic and legal discrimination against the Arab community, the focus on the need to transform the conflict in Israel and to develop strategies towards reconciliation. The Mossawa Center is an important source of information regarding civil society in Israel and the situation of Arab citizens to international institutions. In order to keep the international community informed, the Mossawa Center continuously conducts research on the socio-economic situation of the Arab community, as well as their legal status and the rate of racism in Israel. The Mossawa Center's research places a focus on women, discriminatory legislation, educational services and the state budget.



have received to their communities.

The Mossawa Center is a highly respected organization internationally, and in 2015, was requested to regularly host groups for EAPPI, MEJDI Tours, IFPB and George Mason University. Many group leaders return to us on a yearly basis. Groups that attend Mossawa's presentations on the Arab community request to join the center's contact database to receive email updates on a regular basis, and many have redistributed the materials they

Raising the Awareness of the International Community

European Advocacy Tours:

Advocacy activities in Brussels were ongoing throughout 2015. Three advocacy trips took place in 2015 that resulted in strengthened relations with various MEPs and parties in the EU parliament. Mossawa met with over 30 MEPs and many other EU and European government officials. As a result of these tours, The Greens party and the Social Democrats party both published press releases stating their intention to increase their cooperation and ties with the Arab minority in Israel and their support for Arab minority rights. Another result of Mossawa's continuous advocacy in Brussels was an invitation to a meeting with members of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), to further discuss issues faced by Arab civil society in Israel. This meeting was followed by a first time call for proposals from the EU delegation to Israel in Tel Aviv for strengthening civil society in Israel.

May 2015

From May 4th – 12th 2015, The Mossawa Center's director travelled to Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands on an advocacy tour to increase awareness in the international community of the status of the Arab community and to promote cooperation between the Arab community and official actors in Europe with a focus on the EU and EU member states' foreign ministries. This tour led to Mossawa's director being invited to return to Brussels in June 2015 to address a meeting of the EU Delegation for Relations with Israel. The following is a list of the meetings, which took place.



June 2015

Mossawa's director and International Advocacy intern returned to Brussels from June 22nd – 26th. During this tour they met with EU officials and representatives from several EU parliament parties. The highlights of their visit include presenting the issues facing the Arab community at a meeting of the EU Delegation for Relations with Israel and addressing the EU Council's Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party.



October 2015 (Germany and Brussels)

In October 2015, Mossawa's director was invited to participate in a conference in Frankfurt, Germany. This conference was hosted by "Bildungsstätte Anne Frank" titled: "Learning Spaces for Social Change."

The conference focused on building abilities of civil society organizations to

work together across borders to be more effective. After the conference Mossawa's director travelled to Brussels for three days where he met with EU officials, representatives from EU parties and from the Belgian Foreign Ministry. These meetings resulted in The Greens party and the Social Democrats party both publishing press releases stating their intention to increase their cooperation and ties with the Arab minority in Israel and their support for Arab minority rights.

Participation in 8th European Parliament's Middle East Young Political Leaders Forum

On December 1st 2015, Mossawa's International Advocacy intern participated in the European Parliament's Young Political Leaders Forum. This included several sessions with EU officials including; MEP Ivo Veigl, François Massoulié, Head of Euro Med and Middle-East Unit, Directorate General for External Policies of the EU and Head of Programs at the European Endowment for Democracy, Peter Sondergaard. The goal of the forum is to bring

Palestinian and Israeli Young Political Leaders together and give them the opportunity to meet and discuss policy with EU officials. A Follow-up meeting in Jordan, Israel or Palestine is planned in order to work on further discussions.

Advocacy in New York, USA

In December the director of the Mossawa Center was invited to speak at a conference in New York hosted by the New Israel Fund and Haaretz News. The conference, entitled HaaretzQ, took place on December 13th. Mossawa's director participated



in two panel discussions and presented as part of a series of short lectures which went on throughout the day. The first panel, entitled “What’s Left: Is There a Future for the Progressive Movement in Israel?” in which Mr. Farah spoke on the importance of building a new strategy for the success of Jewish progressive forces. The second panel was titled “‘Droves of Arab Voters’: Is the Struggle of Israel’s Arab Citizens for Equality the New Focal Point of the Conflict?”, here, Mr. Farah spoke on the need for increased political



participation in the Arab community, especially youth and woman. After the conference Mr. Farah attended several meetings with foundations and civil society organizations. He also met with

Palestinians and other allies of the Arab minority in Israel who reside in New York to discuss the possibility of future cooperation and activities.

4. Community Outreach and Educational Development



The Mossawa Center conducts human rights education programs, organizes community activities and brings volunteers from the community to encourage active citizenship. Mossawa runs programs for local councils, youth groups, teachers, activists, women and community organizers in cooperation with NGOs throughout the country. Many of our local actions, including trainings and awareness raising campaigns, contribute to our national advocacy efforts by informing the Arab community of their rights, as well as building their capacities to advocate for their rights with Mossawa as well as on their own. The more people and NGOs Mossawa works with locally and nationally the bigger the impact it has on the rights of Arab citizens. Mossawa also works to build networks with other NGOs located in the occupied Palestinian territories to enhance their capacities and increase solidarity among Palestinians everywhere. Mossawa's community work has a specific focus on women and youth, seeing as Mossawa considers these two groups as critical to its goals of improving the status of Arab citizens.



Mossawa Holds its Palestinian Culture Month for the Fourth Consecutive Year

March was chosen carefully and named Palestinian Culture Month, as it holds dates of significance both locally and internationally, beginning with International Women's Day, National Day of Palestinian Culture, World Storytelling Day, Arab Mother's Day, the commencement of the Spring season, and Palestinian Land Day- all of which contain national, humanitarian, and cultural elements. The wide-range of activities and events held throughout the month took place in Arab towns, villages, and cities across the country. Activities included; an important symposium that conferred the question of political and cultural confluence under a fierce election campaign in Acre, The Palestinian Film Festival initiated by the Midan Theater and Zochrot in Haifa, various plays, film screenings, exhibitions, storytelling, poetry readings, and seminars took place in Jaffa, Tira, Qalansawa, A`ara, A`ara`ara, Taybeh, Jeser el Zarka, Acre,

أيمن نحاس
ستاند-اب كوميدي
الجمعة 22-3-2013 / 15-3-2013 الساعة 20:30 مسرح العيدان حيفا
للتذاكر: حيفا - عدي مكتبة الياس حداد 052-6626227 / اليكا 04-8643274
الناصره- فؤاد عبد الهادي 052-8429735



Nazareth, Fassouta, I`billin, Nahef, Majd el Kroum, KufrYaseef, Shefaa`mer and other villages and cities."

Conference on Palestinian culture in Ramallah

On April 24th 2015 The Mossawa Center in cooperation with the Al-Rowwad Cultural and Theater Center held a conference on Palestinian Culture.



The conference was convened in order to assess the question of how to strengthen Palestinian culture and unity more effectively for the future. Over 60 intellectuals, artists, actors, authors, academics, journalists and representatives of cultural institutions and media from both the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel gathered in the Palestinian

cultural capital of Ramallah for the joint workshop. Participants discussed the issues of developing mechanisms that help unite the Palestinian culture that has suffered from Diaspora since 1948 as well as building the intellectual infrastructure for a vivid cultural scene including theater, music, arts, cultural heritage, film and publishing. Additionally, the aspect of how to stimulate the government's and national media's interest in supporting the strengthening of common cultural heritage was addressed.



Carmel Center

Carmel Center continued to host a variety of events throughout the year including a symposium lead by the newly established Palestinian Arab organization "Humanity Crew", that provides psycho-social support to refugees, regarding the situation of the refugees in the Greek island of Lesbos.

Strike of 49 Church-Owned Schools

On August 31st Mossawa's director and economist took part in a meeting hosted by the High Follow up Committee to discuss the crisis of church-owned schools in Israel. 49 church-owned schools in Israel fall under the category of "recognized but unofficial". These schools receive only 65% of their budget from the state.

This budget was cut to 29% in 2013. Jewish Orthodox schools fall under the same category of "recognized but unofficial", yet they receive 100% of their budget from the state. As a result of these extreme budget cuts, schools resorted to increasing student tuitions, nevertheless they remained on the



verge of a financial breakdown. . Seeing as the socio-economic situation of the Arab community is in deterioration, with over 52% of Arab families living in poverty, the parents of Arab students were unable to pay the raised school tuition, the schools decided to strike to



protest the lack of budget that is allocated to them from the Israeli government. Participating in the meeting were representatives from the Arab Local Councils, Civil Society Organizations, the Arab Mayor Association and the leadership of the Arab Joint List

The Mossawa Center organized a meeting for a delegation of officials from church-owned schools with the Joint List and the Labour Party in the Knesset on September 2nd.

The Mossawa Center supported the 2015 school strike and director, Jafar Farah, encouraged parents that demanded to be part of the debate to join the discussion at a conference with leaders of the Joint List (Ayman Oudeh) and Church-owned school officials at the Auditorium in Haifa on September 10th



The Mossawa Center hosted a variety of activities for pupils throughout the strike, on September 13th, 16th, 17th and 18th. The Mossawa Center raised awareness about the Schools' struggle and encouraged its community to join the debate by reporting and participating at



several demonstrations (such as in front of the Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon's house in Haifa on September 13th, and in front of the Ministry for Education in Haifa on September 16th)

Mossawa managed to create a Parents' Media Network, which allowed parents to increase media

coverage and documentation of the strike and ensure that Israeli media coverage was fair.

At the end of the one-month-long strike an agreement between church-owned schools and the Ministry of Education was signed:

- The Education Ministry agreed to pay (one time) 50 million NIS to the schools.- A Joint Commission to deal with funding matters in future was established
- An official commission to discuss legal status that is still unclear was formed
- Teachers will be included in professional development programs that they were not allowed to participate before the strike
- The Schools committed not to go on strike before end of the current school year

Coalition Against Racism

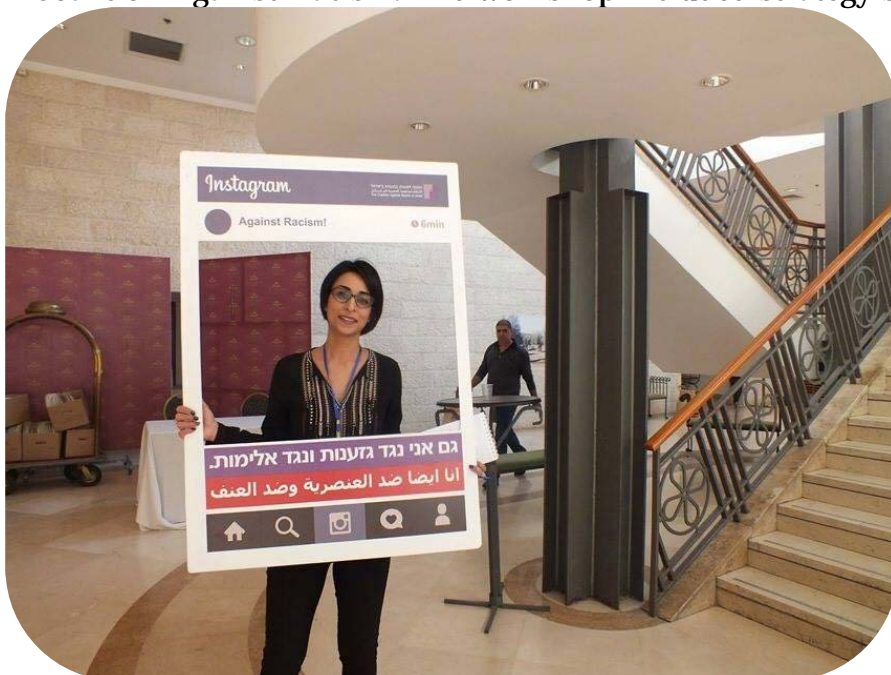
In 2003, the Mossawa Center founded the Coalition Against Racism in Israel (CAR), which brings together 38 civil society organizations working with different ethnic and religious groups including Arabs, Russians, Ethiopians, Mizrahi Jews, Reform Jews, refugees and migrant workers to work towards a vision of a country without racism and discrimination. It was always Mossawa's intention that the CAR would exist as an independent organization. In 2015 this became possible and Mossawa was able to step back as a coordinator of activities while remaining a key member of the coalition.



Coalition Against Racism Workshop, January 12th

Mossawa along with other members of the community group participated in workshop of the Coalition Against Racism. The workshop included strategy sessions on how to fight racism in

Israel in the state and public levels as well as planning sessions for a conference on the international Day against Racism which was planned to be held in the Knesset in early 2016.



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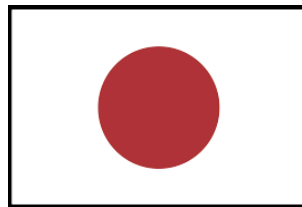
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