



**RABBIS FOR** קול רבני  
חאמאט מן اجل לזכויות אדם  
HUMAN RIGHTS حقوق الانسان

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# MIDYEAR REPORT

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**JANUARY-JUNE  
2025**

**TEVET-SIVAN  
5784**

# CALLING FOR CEASEFIRE AND FREEING THE HOSTAGES

"There is no greater mitzvah than redeeming captives"  
(Mishneh Torah, 8:10, Maimonides)



Protest at the Gaza border to end the war, May 2025

In the first half of 2025, our Rabbis and activists continue to protest, calling for a ceasefire and the return of the hostages. The reality we face is unbearable. We are working through war and grief, watching the horrors in Gaza deepen, and confronting a government that chooses endless war over the lives of its own citizens.

Amid this pain, Rabbis for Human Rights has led solidarity tours for Rabbis, educators, and decision-makers to the Gaza border. There, we have listened to the testimonies of October 7th survivors, stood in protest against the war in Gaza, and prayed alongside people of all faiths for a future rooted in justice, compassion, and dignity for all.



CEO Avi Dabush at the Nova Massacre site, April 2025, whilst leading a tour for British politicians in partnership with Yachad

# INTERFAITH ACTIVISM



(L-r) - Rabbi Yael Vurgan, Sheikh Hassan Abu Aliyun, Rabbi Avi Dabush, Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, Ghadir Hani, Rev. Dr. Maria Leppäkari, and Rabbi Dubi Avigur, May 2025

## INTERFAITH MARCH

The streets of Jerusalem were filled with hope and prayer in May at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Interfaith March in Jerusalem for Human Rights and Peace. At a time of despair and suffering, we were moved to co-host a joint event of Muslims, Christians, Jews, and Druze - of many streams and denominations.

The March concluded with a prayer circle of hundreds of people calling for an end to war and for a time of Peace.

**400+** Attended the Interfaith March

**30** Partner organizations collaborated on the march

## FAITHFUL FUTURES

In 2025 we launched a joint programme with Sabeel - a Palestinian Christian organization, aiming to empower Israeli and Palestinian faith leaders to promote international law and universal human rights through interfaith education, dialogue, and advocacy.

## INTERFAITH FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Interfaith Forum deepened partnerships between members stimulating new programming and opportunities. Our discussions focused this year on solidarity, resilience, and the role of faith in human rights discourse.



Interfaith Iftar with the Council of Unrecognized Villages, Al-Zarnuq Abu Kweider, March 2025



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

**1000+**

Olive trees  
planted for  
Planting Justice

**200**

brought to the field for  
Protective Presence



Volunteers in Husan, planting olive trees with Palestinian landowners, February 2025

## PROTECTIVE PRESENCE

Our protective presence efforts significantly ramped up in the first half of 2025; we hired new field coordinators for Masafer Yatta and the Bethlehem region, joining our current Nablus and Jordan Valley coordinators. We assist already existing networks on the ground, offering a 24/7 protective presence to Palestinian communities threatened by settler violence and with limited access to their lands.

## PLANTING JUSTICE

The 2025 Planting Justice campaign ran from January to March, including weekly workdays supported by over 400 volunteers, who planted and donated 1,000 olive saplings.

This campaign not only restored land and hope but also deepened grassroots connections between communities and volunteers.

## WORKDAYS

Our workdays also significantly grew in 2025 - we established new relationships with Palestinian communities in Al-Khader and the Al-Makhroul valley, bringing volunteers weekly to assist in farming and agricultural projects.



Volunteers harvest wheat in Wadi Rahim, Masafer Yatta, April 2025



## HUMANITARIAN AID

Palestinians in the West Bank have been facing a deepening economic crisis in recent years. The widespread revocation of work permits has left hundreds of thousands unable to earn a living in Israel. Military restrictions have locked down entire cities and villages, while settlers and state authorities continue to block access to agricultural lands - further intensifying the crisis.

In response, and in partnership with a coalition of organizations, we have been providing humanitarian aid in the form of food boxes to the most vulnerable communities.

During the month of Ramadan, we launched a special campaign that delivered over 840 food boxes to families across the West Bank.

**Anton Goodman packing food aid at the YMCA during Ramadan, March 2025**

**Dana Sharon providing a Protective Presence during a water delivery to Ras Al-Eyn**



**WATER AID**

This year we have begun delivering water tankers to Palestinian communities in the West Bank. We also provide a protective presence during these deliveries due to settler attacks. This is essential in response to the state's systematic control of water sources and the discriminatory allocation of this vital resource, diverting it from Palestinian communities to illegal settlements.

We hope this water helps families stay on their land, sustain their herds, and live with dignity.



## EDUCATION



Avi Dabush speaking to a cohort from Achvat Amim at a look-out point over Gaza, April 2025

**650**

Participants across  
the mechinot programmes

**18**

Mechinot groups  
led on tours

This semester saw a significant increase in educational tours, including a Jerusalem series for several Mechinot, additional one-day tours in Jerusalem, tours of Bedouin society in the Negev, visits to Hebron, and an introductory tour of Haredi society. These encounters provided students with a deeper understanding of the diverse and complex social fabric of Israeli society. In addition, our team led many one-time educational sessions throughout the semester.

New educational content was developed through our Rabbis' Beit Midrash program, led by Rabbi Kobi Weiss, resulting in a syllabus centered on the Jewish value of the Sanctity of Life.



Yossi Elmakayes running a tour of East Jerusalem for a Mechina group, January 2025

## JUDAISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

This year we established the Judaism and Social Justice Forum of organizations, with the aim of raising awareness and acting together. The first activity of the forum was planning Social Justice Week.

**44**

Events  
during Social  
Justice Week

**7**

original Dvar Torah's  
published in  
community  
newsletters

**175**

**Members**

Israeli Rabbis,  
Rabbinical Students



Social Justice Week is rooted in Jewish tradition and values, promoting a vision of a society where social justice is a responsibility of both the state and civil society. This year's central theme was the cost of living and food security.



A meeting of the Forum to Combat Poverty in Ashkelon, May 2025



A fermentation workshop with the Food Rescuers, May 2025



## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POLICY

We continue to fight for policies which aim to secure a dignified life for all. A significant achievement is the inclusion of a person living in poverty in the Forum to Combat Poverty alongside state and public representatives. Below are a few of the policy issues we lobby for in the Knesset:



Assisting displaced communities in the north of Israel access their rights



Advocating for fair and affordable transportation



Establishing a government body tasked with tackling poverty, ensuring dignified living for all



We have laid crucial groundwork to support displaced and marginalized communities in northern Israel, particularly in the wake of the war. The project focuses on enhancing access to basic rights and essential services for internally displaced citizens of Israel, both Jewish and Palestinian, whose vulnerability has been deepened by a lack of state protection, economic insecurity, and systemic neglect.

Becky Keshet-Cohen during a Knesset hearing on food insecurity, February 2025

## HADERA RIGHTS CENTRE

The Rights Center of Rabbis for Human Rights serves the residents of Hadera, Wadi Aara and the surrounding area.

We provide assistance for any issue where there is difficulty in dealing with bureaucracy and accessing rights. The service is available in Hebrew and Arabic.

**270**

Interactions handled in first half of 2025

# SUPPORT OUR WORK



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