**Background**

Midreshet Dror (“Freedom School”) is a leftwing political educational project founded by Breaking the Silence. The Midrasha was established with the goal of developing young civic leadership that will work to raise awareness and promote activities around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the plight of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and strive to create a more equitable reality between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Midreshet Dror has numerous partnerships with NIF. We believe in the project and its effectiveness in creating leftwing political education about the conflict and other issues, for influential young people.

This summer, in addition to its regular programs, Midreshet Dror will launch a new program for young people from Israel’s religious, Masorti (traditional), and ultra-Orthodox communities, in partnership with Combatants for Peace, Breaking the Silence, Ir Amim, and Smol Emuni. The aim of the program is to create young leadership from within religious society that is active in these areas. Midreshet Dror’s experience shows that the young people selected to attend the Midrasha go on to be active in leftwing organizations, and as activists striving to end the Occupation. It is critically important that there are religious voices among these young leaders.

**Workplan**

The program aims to develop a critical political consciousness among ever-expanding circles of young people from Israel’s religious and ultra-Orthodox communities. Its intention is to create an ideological platform for Jewish, and even religious discourse on the values of peace, justice, and equality, and to broaden the circles of religious activists striving to end the Occupation. It will be run in Midreshet Dror’s usual format, but with certain adaptations so that it is in the spirit of Midrasha Emunit.

The program will run for around three weeks during August, in a closed format (including accommodation and food), to appeal to a student audience. The first half of the day will be devoted to study in a “Morning Seder” format, comprising a Shiur and Havruta study, in which Jewish sources will be explored in light of issues around human rights, current affairs, and politics. The second half of the day will be in Midreshet Dror’s “classic” format. In-depth and diverse aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be studied, as well as tools and challenges in activism and social leadership. There will also be day trips to East Jerusalem and the West Bank, in partnership and with assistance from leftwing organizations (chiefly Combatants for Peace, Breaking the Silence, Smol Emuni, and Ir Amim). The third week will be a travel week, where every two days the program will focus on a different topic (related to the conflict), and will be held in various locations around the country.

The program will be attended by 14 male and female participants from all shades of religious society – young people with leadership potential aged 22-30.

**Budget**

The total cost of the project is $36,000. Grants totaling $16,000 have already been secured from the European Union and from additional donors. The budget requested by the Midrasha for its activities is $20,000, which will make up the shortfall of the existing donations.

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| **Topic** | **Subsection** | **Cost in USD** |
| Salaries | Midrasha manager costs | 5722.07 |
| Instructor costs | 5313.35 |
| Salary for a professional counsellor for the Midrasha | 3719.35 |
| Lecturers’ salaries | 2724.80 |
| Lodging | An apartment in Jerusalem for 2 weeks | 2724.80 |
| Nazareth | 681.20 |
| South Hebron Hills | 272.48 |
| Yeruham | 681.20 |
| Food | Shopping for self-catering | 2724.80 |
| Cooked meals | 2343.32 |
| Marketing and Advertising | Social media promotion | 544.96 |
| Graphic design | 272.48 |
| Logistics | Transport | 2724.80 |
| Office equipment and training materials | 1089.92 |
| Lecturer travel | 817.44 |
| Concluding weekend (2 nights) | Accommodation in Neve Shalom + breakfast | 1525.89 |
| Kosher meals | 1307.90 |
| Lecturers | 980.93 |
| Lecturer travel | 326.98 |
| Study space | 490.46 |
| **Total** | **36989.10** |

**Outputs**:

* 14 participants in the program who are being exposed to a leftwing political education.
* The development of a schedule and written syllabus, which can be duplicated in the future.

**Outcomes**:

* The development of young leadership within Israel’s religious community, based on the values of peace, justice, and equality, which works in a collegiate and creative way to end the conflict, based on a deep familiarity with a variety of perspectives.
* The development of a critical political consciousness among ever-expanding circles of young people from Israel’s religious and ultra-Orthodox communities, and the creation of an ideological platform for Jewish, and even religious discourse on the values of peace, justice, and equality.

**Purpose of the grant**

Support for “Midrasha Emunit” – a program by Midreshet Dror for Israel’s young religious public to develop activism regarding the conflict and the Occupation.