**Purpose of the grant:** A pilot of the Narratives Program of the Parents Circle-Families Forum (Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families for Reconciliation and Peace) to expand the target audience by holding sessions between Jews and Arabs living in Israel. The pilot is expected to take place in cooperation with the Achva Academic College over four full days in September 2024.

**Background**:

The Parents Circle-Families Forum (Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families for Reconciliation and Peace) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization. Its members include hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians who have lost a close relative as a result of the ongoing conflict between the two peoples. All the members of the Forum, Israelis and Palestinians alike, oppose violence and support a peaceful end to the conflict. The vision of the Forum is to prevent further bereavements among both peoples and to create a framework for a reconciliation process that will further the peace process.

The Israeli-Palestinian Narratives Project began in 2010. One of the Forum’s flagship projects, it brings Israelis and Palestinians together in a process that enables them to learn about the “other’s” personal and national narratives while building trust, empathy, and the ability to listen.

To date, some 50 groups have participated in the project. Each group comprises about 30 participants, half of which are Israeli and half Palestinian. The structure of the program includes six meetings—two uni-national meetings, two binational weekend meetings, and two binational tour days. Throughout the program’s 13 years of operation, it has been accompanied by an external evaluation process that includes questionnaires and interviews.

**Workplan**

The Forum plans to expand the program’s target audience and create a Narratives Program based on the same goals and principles, but adapted to groups of Jews and Arabs living in Israel. The Forum places considerable importance on strengthening connections, understanding, and trust between Jews and Arabs living in Israel, with the goal of promoting cooperation between the two peoples, and an end to the conflict.

The Forum is seeking to run a pilot of its adapted Narratives Program in collaboration with Achva Academic College. The pilot will involve a group of approximately 25-30 Jewish and Arab students who are studying at the College, which will take place in September 2024 over four full days (a total of 40 academic hours).

The pilot program will be based on the principles of the Forum’s long-running Narratives Program. Its structure, content, and methods will be tailored to its unique target audience of men and women studying at the College (a socioeconomic cross-section of students, and the Bedouin communities from which the Arab students come, etc.). Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire at the beginning and end of the program, which the Forum will use to assess success according to a set of predefined indicators.

The pilot program will be developed in collaboration with the Forum team (program coordinators and experienced facilitators) and staff at the Achva Academic College, and in consultation with professionals with relevant experience, to ensure that its goals are achieved in the best possible way.

The budget (in New Israeli Shekels) for a four-month pilot is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Personnel** | Total |
| Director |  11,200  |
| Project Coordinator |  34,000  |
| Finance/Reporting Officer |  7,200  |
| **Program** |   |
| Two Facilitators |  30,000  |
| Two Tour Guides |  3,510  |
| Two Lecturers |  4,000  |
| External Consultant |  5,000  |
| Translators |  16,000  |
| **Other** |   |
| Staff Travel |  3,600  |
| Bus |  3,000  |
| Food and Refreshments+Hall |  16,800  |
| Materials and Office Expenses |  2,500  |
| Subtotal |  136,810  |
| Overhead 10% |  13,681  |
| Total NIS |  150,491  |
| Total USD | $40,575 |

**Success indicators**

**Metrics**

25-30 Jewish and Arab students will experience a shared process that will take place over four full days.

**Outcomes**

Familiarity with the “other’s” narrative, an increase in knowledge about the “other,” an increase in trust and empathy for the “other,” an increase in the belief that it is possible to live a shared life with the “other,” and an increase in the desire to act together.

The success of the pilot will result in a continuation of the program, including rolling it out to other groups from this target audience.