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| **SOCIAL CHANGE DOMAIN** | | | | | | | |
| **STRATEGIES** | | | | | | | |
| Safeguarding Civil Society and Activists: The Civil Society Protection Hub Ensuring | Advancing Religious Freedom and Fighting Religious Extremism | | Combating Crime & Violence in Palestinian Israeli Society | Strengthening Anti-Racism Initiatives & Organizations | Fighting the Occupation | | Promoting Shared Society |
| Advancing Equity in Land, Planning & Housing | | **Strengthening Gender Equality NGOs** | | Safeguarding Human & Civil Rights | | Strengthening Palestinian-Israeli Society | |
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| **The organization was established in:** 1984   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **NIF Funding Type** | **Past Years of Support** | | General Support | 1986-2006, 2019-2024 |   **DA Support (in 2023):** $125,835  **Rapid Response Support (in 2023/24):** $13,000  **Link to Organizational Website:** <https://iwn.org.il/>  **Link to Proposal:** <https://nif.my.site.com/Portal/a0NAb000000Pqb3?srPos=3&srKp=a0N>  **Link to Interim Reports:** <https://nif.my.site.com/Portal/a0N3X00001AdWY5?srPos=2&srKp=a0N> | | | | | | | |
| **INTRODUCTION** | | | | | | | |
| **The overall current expected impact of the program as a strategy for advancing NIF’s overall mission of a just and democratic Israel is:**  Especially in the current reality with the most anti-feminist government in Israel’s history, gender equality—a mandatory component of any just society—will be advanced and anti-feminist forces thwarted in measurable ways, through the expansion of public knowledge and dialogue and strengthening of activists and organizations that work with broader and more diverse (especially disenfranchised) populations, including the ultra-Orthodox, Palestinians, and Mizrahim. | | | | | | | |
| **The grantee uses strategies of:** Advocacy, litigation, operation of a hotline, and public campaigns | | | | | | | |
| **These are the goals of the organization and then some relevant benchmarks outcomes on the way to achieving the goals:**  The organization’s overarching goal is to achieve full equality for women in every sphere of life and to enhance protection of women’s rights (with the emphasis on preventing domestic violence).  Interim objectives:   * Passage of legislation that furthers equality for women and protects their rights; thwarting laws that would infringe equality and women’s rights * A change in the policies of institutional agents—achieved via High Court petitions—in a way that furthers equality for women and protects their rights * A change in public opinion that increases support for women’s equality | | | | | | | |
| **Main Indicators for the grant include** (among others, the total list of indicators and targets can be found in the Salesforce):   * The number of women who contact the organization’s hotline * The number of Knesset bills it supports and the number that are passed * The number of High Court petitions submitted and the number sustained * The exposure of the organization’s public campaigns | | | | | | | |
| **Added value of this grant (for the project and in general) include that:**  IWN occupies a central location on the map of women’s organizations in Israel with regard to policy planning and promotion (by means of advocacy and litigation) and its impact on the public discourse. We have witnessed the current government, and the nationalist right in particular, make continuous efforts to narrow the space occupied by liberalism and feminism under the pretext of the war and to gnaw away at gender equality. We expect this trend to continue and amplify once the situation is normalized. Israel Women’s Network has played an important role in the fight against anti-feminist forces, in blocking the government’s regressive actions, and in linking democratic-liberal causes to the feminist struggle. | | | | | | | |
| **For organizations receiving support 5 or more years Significant PAST achievements - relevant to this program or not - of the grantee since NIF began support include:**   * Over the past decade IWN has been among the leaders of the campaign against the exclusion of women in the public space. In this role it filed and won several legal cases that eliminated such exclusionary practices implemented by ministries and local authorities (e.g., the elimination of gender segregation in a Tourism Ministry course for tour guides; the cancellation of an event to be sponsored by the Haifa municipality restricted to men; the Supreme Court’s decision that cancelled an event sponsored by the Afula municipality). In addition, the organization represented several women who had been harmed by gender segregation in their successful damage suits against the responsible agencies (e.g., a monetary award to a woman who was sent to take a gender-segregated defensive driving course; a verdict against a bus driver who refused to allow a woman to board because of her “immodest clothing”). * The IWN was in the forefront of the discussions and action about the major ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic on women’s rights and status in Israel and spurred the creation of a government roundtable led by the Prime Minister office. | | | | | | | |
| **PROGRESS** | | | | | | | |
| **Overall Progress Evaluation:** Partially Met Expectations  **Explanation re. Score:**  Over the past year, it has been evident that the IWN has developed new action strategies to complement the strategies of lobbying and advocacy that have dominated its activity in the past. It has broadened its hotline activity and established an international division with the goal of establishing collaborations with women’s organizations around the world. It has also established a research division and branched out into dealing with additional feminist issues—such as sexual crimes during wartime—some of which have come to replace the core issues it had dealt with traditionally. This has been a transitional year for IWN, both in terms of personnel changeover and due to the political situation in Israel. Alongside continued growth and successes, it has become apparent that the IWN must reassess its strategies going forward and decide which issues it wishes to focus on primarily.  **Main Progress in 2023/24:**  **Outcomes:**   * The IWN championed the lawsuit against the ultra-Orthodox “Beit Ya’akov” institutions for depriving the caretakers and instructors they employ of their social rights. The courts awarded the plaintiffs 7 million shekels in compensation. * The Executive Director of the IWN participated in the UN forum on the gender-based war crimes perpetrated on October 7. In the run-up to the forum, the organization submitted two appeals to the UN and UN Women with signatures from over 170 women’s rights organizations from Israel and the world (Spain, Australia, Germany, and more). Thanks to this, it now has professional ties with these institutions. * The IWN was a leader in raising awareness of gender inequality in the context of the war. The organization produced a detailed document presenting to the government all the repercussions of the war that pertain exclusively or predominantly to women and the solutions they need to implement in order to address the problem. The document was composed under the guidance of the IWN and signed by over forty organizations—an extraordinary and significant collaboration initiated by the IWN. * In April, the IWN launched the “Alice Line”—a help hotline for women victims of the war in honor of Alice Shalvi. A digital campaign accompanied the launch, thanks to which 8,000 people learned about the hotline online. An ad was likewise broadcast on prime-time television.   **Outputs:**   * The IWN has established two new divisions—an international division for developing cooperation with women’s rights organizations in the international arena and contributing to the struggle against and research concerning threats to democracy, and a research division, which, when staffed, will work to support the IWN’s endeavors with relevant research. * The IWN launched a new podcast hosted by Channel 12 news journalist Dana Weiss, which examines women’s representation in decision-making centers in Israel. So far, the four episodes of the podcast that have aired have accrued 2500 listens and a similar number of downloads. * The Alice Line has received about 1,000 calls in five languages (English, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic). * The IWN has produced five bill proposals pertaining to issues of gender equality and women’s rights, especially during wartime. The bills are being promoted by both the coalition and the opposition (for instance, a bill proposal to have time served in active reserve duty be counted toward maternity leave). * The organization published seventeen position papers (for instance, a paper regarding undocumented women who are victims of violence and abuse, several papers about the Electronic Monitoring Law, and the repercussions of the dissolution of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women. | | | | | | | |
| **Particular challenges and/or significant program or organizational changes:**  After four years, during which the organization has seen a rapid succession of three Executive Directors, about six months ago, the position was taken up by Executive Director Tal Hochman, who had managed the Government Relations Department at the IWN for four years. The frequent turnover of directors impacted the organization and its stability. Furthermore, after many years of successful tenure, the chairwoman of the IWN also left her position.  The IWN expanded its personnel and recruited four new staff members to the hotline division, the international division, and the research division.  As part of their efforts to adapt to the reality of wartime, the IWN stopped its municipal-level and election-oriented activity to focus on women’s rights in wartime and sexual crimes perpetrated on October 7. | | | | | | | |
| **Organizational income 2023:** $823,500  **Expected Organizational Budget 2024:** $1,902,000 | | | | | | | |
| **2023 RECOMMENDATION** | | | | | | | |
| **2023 Grant:** $40,000  **2024 Staff Recommendation:** $40,000  **% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 4.8%  **Explain Staff Recommendation:**  After a period of turmoil in the IWN’s leadership ranks, the organization seems to have stabilized and broadened its scope of activity to address additional core issues. In light of the IWN’s strategic expansion in the field of individual services to women, it is worth examining whether the organization has moved too far away from the fields toward which the foundation would like to see it direct its efforts—more legal advocacy and focus on the struggle against right-wing forces that threaten women’s rights. The IWN has the potential to play a central role in setting the democratic-liberal agenda. Yet, it remains to be seen how the organization’s new leadership (the new Executive Director and Chairwoman) intends to champion this agenda and on which core issues they choose to focus.  **Recommendation of Board/Grants Committee 2023:** | | | | | | | |