**Capturing the Moment: An Alternative Vision of Peace and Security
Workplan and Recommendations for Grants in 2024-2025**

**Rationale**

The major innovation of this new program is that it brings together, for the first time, two areas of work – promoting a diplomatic solution and fighting the Occupation – under a single framework. It connects these areas as much as possible and attempts to produce an integrative concept by emphasizing the vital link between creating and promoting a vision for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as blocking annexation efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This is the first time that the NIF has promoted public opinion or action that focuses on advancing a diplomatic solution, alongside refining our human rights efforts toward a specific, impactful goal.

The rationale of the new program assumes that only a combination of positive action to present a diplomatic-security alternative, and the creation of conditions on the ground that facilitate a diplomatic settlement, will enable the promotion of a different political reality for Israelis and Palestinians. Additionally, after years of activity on the ground, we recognize that it is not enough to promote a diplomatic vision, while the shifting reality on the ground prevents that vision from being realized or opposing the Occupation without a diplomatic action plan.

We seek to combine these two approaches in a way that is different from past efforts. We propose a combination of (1) promoting ideas in support of a diplomatic settlement of the conflict; and (2) blocking deportation and annexation. To respond to threats, and increase the potential for exploiting opportunities, we propose acting through two central and complementary streams, in the form of a pincer movement.

1. Building: the formation of a positive diplomatic vision that provides real answers to questions about mutual security requirements, lack of trust, political and policy needs, and international forces. Proactive action to influence public opinion, to bolster support for diplomatic processes and belief in their feasibility, while re-identifying the center-left with a rich and well-founded concept of security. The main activities in this stream will include significant research-based media and public-facing work to influence public opinion, building a rich and professional body of knowledge and policy to reframe political discourse in the political arena, and working with and within political and international arenas.

2. Blocking: simultaneously with work to advance a new diplomatic-security-based approach for the resolution of the conflict, action is required to attempt to check two dangerous efforts by the current government to entrench the Occupation and the settlement enterprise further, thus preventing government-backed efforts to transfer Palestinians in the West Bank (in particular in Area C) and East Jerusalem through a takeover of land by state-supported settlers. The goal of this workstream is to empower a response to growing settler violence, curb the expulsion of Palestinian communities – the “silent transfer” – and accelerate *de facto* annexation in Palestinian urban, industrial, and agricultural areas in Area C and East Jerusalem. Blocking these moves is a necessary and critical condition for any future diplomatic solution.

We expect that coordinated and synchronized action by activists on the ground and organizations working to promote diplomatic, legal, policy, and public work will help shift the balance of power. We believe that an optimal combination of these different action strategies will raise public awareness, increase political and international attention, and create the conditions to block rightwing initiatives – and even roll back the gains made by the right (as is happening, for example, in the South Hebron Hills, where this type of coordinated activity is proving effective).

Both streams complement and support each other. Attempting to undertake action in one stream while neglecting the other will merely produce incomplete work that does not adequately address the situation on the ground. Thus, if we undertake work to promote diplomatic ideas without also acting to curb the expansion of the settlements and annexation, we may encounter a situation where it is impossible to implement those ideas effectively. By the same token, containment activities on the ground that are not accompanied by positive, conceptual, and public action will be short-lived and will end up being eroded. To create suitable conditions for a diplomatic settlement, we must do all we can to block the right’s annexation efforts and promote a political stance supporting an agreement, both in public opinion and in dialogue with the political leadership.

**Main Strategies – Building**

**Research, Policy, and Vision Development**

Promoting a vision, based on data and research, for a pragmatic and secure political future by addressing security concerns, mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians, and skepticism regarding whether the conflict can be resolved. This can be achieved by presenting solutions, sparking political imagination, developing rich professional knowledge, and embedding this within liberal-democratic leadership.

A key component of this strategy is the **joint political-security unit of the Berl Katznelson Foundation and the Mitvim Institute**, which the NIF helped establish and encouraged both organizations on which to collaborate. Shortly after October 7, we approved a $200,000 startup grant for the joint unit, which, over months of work developed “The Israeli Initiative – A Roadmap for Advancing a Political-Security Settlement.” This initiative outlines a paradigm for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an alternative to the conflict management concept that collapsed after October 7.

Two additional new grantees within this strategy are the **Tamrur Project**, led by Dr (Col. Res.) Shaul Arieli, and **A Land for All**. They are joined by the **aChord Center**, with an infrastructure grant that will assist all organizations working in this space and **a new political-security project by IDEA**. Full details regarding the grantees under this strategy are provided below.

**Public Mobilization Efforts**

Public outreach work targeting diverse audiences – from the left through the center, to the moderate right – using an “accordion” approach that supports multiple public campaigns to advance support for a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As part of this framework, the Executive Committee has approved significant support over the last two months – totaling $1.4 million – for four campaigns. Two of these are **the campaign by the joint unit of the Berl Katznelson Foundation and the Mitvim Institute and a joint campaign by Darkenu – Commanders for Israel’s Security and the Day After the War Forum** ($400,000 for each campaign).

These campaigns focus on achieving national security through a political agreement and support for a regional security alliance that would lead to a two-state solution. Two of the campaigns – **Have You Seen the Horizon Lately?** ($400,000) and **Civil Headquarters** ($200,000) – focus on establishing support for a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a core component of liberal-democratic identity. Further details about these campaigns are provided in the Appendix. As part of this strategy, we are submitting for approval an additional grant (which complements the “accordion” approach and is focused on public outreach to leftwing audiences) for the **It’s Time** **Coalition** (more details below). It is important to note that the NIF, through its grants department, operates a forum that coordinates and integrates the various campaigns to enhance their mutual collaboration and maximize their collective impact.

**Local and International Advocacy**

One of the recurring issues in discussions with center-left politicians is the lack of systematic work with the political system on policy matters and the difficulty in ensuring a steady flow of information from civil society organizations to decision-makers. The work within this policy promotion strategy attempts to provide a solution to this via briefings, distributing policy papers, and improving information sharing. The main grantees in this strategy are the **Joint Political-Security Unit**, with the Berl Katznelson Foundation leading on policy advocacy efforts with elected officials and decision-makers, and the Mitvim Institute operating in the international arena with diplomats and embassies. Additionally, a new joint project by **Peace Now and the** **Geneva Initiative** involves hiring a joint policy advocate in the Knesset, with both organizations also engaged in extensive international policy advocacy work (details are provided below).

**Top of Form**

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**Recommendations for Grants – Building**

Below are the team’s recommendations for capacity-building grants aligned with the key strategies:

**Research, Policy, and Vision Development**

**The aChord Center** – expanding Israeli public support for political-security solutions by using tools from social-political psychology and current research findings. The aChord Center provides the research basis for the messaging of all the campaigns we have approved as part of the “accordion” strategy. It also serves other actors active in this space who do not run large campaigns but engage in other forms of public work.

Shortly after October 7, we approved a $100,000 infrastructure grant to aChord to assess public attitudes and develop messages to reinforce perspectives supporting political-security agreements. The findings of aChord are being employed by many actors in the efforts to advance a political resolution, including through the **Political Horizon Forum** coordinated by Shatil. This forum brings together numerous organizations whose aim is to enhance coordination, information-sharing, and synergy among the many actors in this space, with the goal of maximizing joint impact wherever necessary.

The grant that we are submitting for approval as part of the new program will assist key figures who influence and shape public-political discourse in Israel (including political leaders, protest leaders, former senior security officials, political experts, media professionals, and social media influencers) in using research-based messages, integrating these into public discourse, and impacting public attitudes and perceptions.

The research by aChord not only mapped the perceptions and attitudes of the Israeli public, but also identified psychosocial barriers and catalysts for changing attitudes in relation to the conflict (such as psychosocial, demographic, and other factors that either prevent or facilitate public support for a political settlement). The messages and interventions aChord develops are scientifically proven to be effective in changing public attitudes and perceptions. Further, aChord develops content based on its research, as well as provides consultancy and guidance to change agents, organizations, and initiatives working to promote support for a political solution.

The focus of aChord is to target audiences who identify as part of the liberal-democratic camp, comprising 60-70% of the Israeli public. In-depth research conducted by aChord between April and June 2024 on public attitudes towards the conflict have enabled it to identify and characterize audiences with “malleable” and moderate views, who have significant potential to change their perceptions regarding the conflict and its resolution. The research showed that 54% of the non-ultra-Orthodox Israeli public holds such views (with a further 20% to their left who already support a political settlement, including the necessary compromises). The main goal of the proposed project is to influence the attitudes of this key segment of the public.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $150,000
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $346,000

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget:** 43%

**Project Tamrur** – an infrastructure grant that will provide broad support to civil society as a tool for providing data related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for developing concrete, data-driven policy proposals. These proposals can help decision-makers and other stakeholders in Israel and internationally, at both a professional and a political level, to block annexation processes that will lead to a single state and to promote a two-state solution.

The project, led by Dr. Col. (Res.) Shaul Arieli, former head of the negotiations administration in the Prime Minister’s Office, began at Reichman University and now operates as an independent nonprofit organization. Over the past 15 years, Tamrur has systematically collected and updated quarterly data across seven different areas of interest – economic, security, spatial, social, diplomatic, political, and legal – to reflect Israeli and Palestinian control in each. This data enables the analysis of long-term trends.

Tamrur is based on a control model that explains the factors that increase Palestinian or Israeli control over a specific area. To understand these factors, different scenarios can be used to identify the key variables that impact the feasibility of establishing two states and their relative weights. For example, if we wanted to understand the main factors that increase Palestinian territorial control in Area C, we might find that these are the area of built-up Palestinian land in square kilometers, the natural growth of the Palestinian population, and the area of Palestinian built-up land in Area C that has expanded from Areas A and B. Through this model, we can better understand what needs to be done to increase or decrease Israeli or Palestinian control in a specific area. This provides us with knowledge regarding the areas on which we should focus if we are to decrease Israeli control and increase Palestinian control.

One of Tamrur’s goals is to develop data-driven work plans to shape government policy with a view to establishing two states. To date, economic, spatial, and security data-driven policy plans have been developed through an understanding of public opinion in Israel (the attitudes of Jews, Arabs, and settlers). The aim is for these work plans to shape public opinion to support the process.

The project aims to make its data and the policy proposals on which they are based accessible to decision-makers in countries that are friendly to Israel and interested in promoting a two-state solution, particularly the United States and European nations. Further, the project seeks to work with civil society organizations involved in these efforts and to make relevant materials accessible to the broader Israeli public.

Similar to the infrastructure grant for the aChord Center, the grant for Tamrur that we are submitting for approval will be an infrastructure grant serving relevant organizations in both the building and blocking streams. Additionally, the grant will assist Tamrur in its ongoing data collection, the expansion and refinement of statistical analysis, and improving data accessibility for decision-makers and civil society organizations.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $150,000
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $678,522

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget: 22**%

**A Land for All** – to reignite and expand the political imagination regarding a two-state solution by presenting an updated model that also addresses practical solutions and the connection of Israelis and Palestinians to a shared homeland.

The organization intends to expand its work, with its core aim being to demonstrate how the conceptual model of A Land for All, based on the paradigm of Two States, One Homeland, can be realized. It also seeks to uniquely address the issues that divide Israelis and Palestinians and propose a path forward away from ongoing hostilities.

In the upcoming year, A Land for All will focus on further developing its vision for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict via research and policy promotion and by influencing key Israeli actors able to shape public opinion and/or policy through their public and/or political standing.

A Land for All was recently awarded a significant planning grant to establish a Research and Policy Development unit. Over the next three years, this grant will facilitate the development of research-based policy papers that detail the feasibility and operational specifics for advancing the organization’s vision of promoting the “Two States, One Homeland” paradigm. Further, the organization has recently established a public advocacy unit and action program and plans to expand its team and capabilities toward this end.

The grant that we are submitting for approval for A Land for All is a general support grant that is part of enriching the conceptual space for the advancement of a political solution. It will help the organization progress towards its goals and the objectives of NIF’s new program.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $1**00**,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $528,310

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 19%

**IDEA** – a project to promote a political-security concept and willingness to advance a political settlement among the leadership of the democratic-liberal camp. Within this project, conceptual training programs will be developed for various officials regarding the liberal-democratic camp’s political-security concept, including fostering support for a political settlement among the leadership of this camp.

In the wake of October 7, IDEA undertook a re-evaluation of its annual plan. This led to the development of a new strategy for the organization within its existing tools and mandate for promoting liberal-democratic values. To this end, IDEA established a new unit to lead conceptual programs for network members who are graduates of its programs. It also founded a unit tasked with creating tools to implement infrastructures established within IDEA. As part of this new project, starting in November 2024, IDEA will operate an in-depth educational program consisting of 10 sessions in conjunction with the Institute for National Security Studies. The program will be aimed at a mixed group of around 20 participants (from civil society, media, education, culture, campaigning, politics, etc.) who are directly involved and influential in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Alongside the main program, one- or two-day seminars will be held for various professionals (heads of pre-military academies, media professionals, cultural figures, municipal leaders), with about 30 participants within each.

The main program will bring together the camp’s leadership to address Israel's major political-security challenges. It will outline the various responses being developed by organizations such as the Joint Political-Security Unit of the Berl Katznelson Foundation and Mitvim, the Institute for National Security Studies, the Tamrur project led by Shaul Arieli, and A Land for All. The shorter programs will introduce participants to these various plans, with the aim of encouraging different audiences to support and adopt them in preparation for a future political settlement.

There are two main ways in which IDEA contributes unique added value for leading a project of this type. First, IDEA functions as an umbrella organization that successfully brings together diverse groups from various political streams and fields. It thus facilitates interaction between the organizations involved in developing the plans and the various actors responsible for implementing or promoting them. Second, IDEA is recognized as a learning space where experienced and senior players are willing to engage with its activities to question and deepen their understanding. This gives IDEA the power to leverage significant change and embed ideas or language within the camp’s diverse leadership. For these reasons, we recommend approving this grant so that IDEA can lead this new project.Top of FormBottom of Form

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**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**75**,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $75,000

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget: 100**%

**Public Mobilization Efforts**

**The It’s Time Coalition –** revitalizing the peace camp and instilling it with confidence by providing a clear alternative and vision that stabilizes, strengthens, and mobilizes left-leaning audiences to publicly support an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

The It’s Time Coalition is a broad and diverse partnership of organizations and activists who are working together to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict via a political settlement that will guarantee the rights of both peoples’ self-determination and security in an independent state. The Coalition includes about 50 organizations and is managed and led by Shatil. Its steering committee consists of representatives from Zazim, Standing Together, Women Wage Peace, Mehazkim, Peace Now, and A Land for All. Other leading organizations in the It’s Time Coalition include the Parents Circle-Families Forum, the Abraham Initiatives, Rabbis for Human Rights, Mizrahi Civic Collective, Smol Emuni, the Peace Forum, Itach-Ma’aki, and many others (a full list of participating organizations is provided in the Appendix).

On 1.7.2024, with support from a Magen grant from the NIF, the Coalition held a major event at the Menora Mitvachim Arena in Tel Aviv, attended by 6,000 people – Jews and Arabs, women and men from both Israel’s central coastal plain and its more peripheral regions in the north and south. The event delivered a powerful message: “It’s time for a deal, it’s time to stop the war, it’s time for a political agreement. It’s time to make peace.” The event was bilingual and bi-ethnic, involving speeches by Palestinian-Israeli intellectuals, participation by Palestinian-Israeli artists, and a screening of a video featuring Palestinians who support advancing a political agreement and peace.

The event successfully sparked an initial sense of revitalization within the peace camp. The It’s Time Coalition intends to continue to work together to organize large and small events, influence the public and political arenas, and build influence that impacts real-world events. Beyond reviving the peace camp, the goals of the It’s Time Coalition include: creating a broad public support base for an Israeli-Palestinian political agreement, strengthening those in the political leadership that are already talking about peace, serving as a public counterweight that can influence the political arena and shift it to the left (i.e., expanding the Overton window); and putting a political agreement and resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the public agenda, especially ahead of the next elections, to force politicians to address, rather than overlook, this issue.

The It’s Time Coalition’s work plan for the upcoming six months includes: efforts to build influence (meetings with relevant political actors for joint discussions), ongoing media and public work; a series of local events to increase influence; strengthening international collaborations for support and legitimacy; Zoom meetings and “living-room discussions” to present the political solutions that are on the table; learning from resolved conflicts around the world; and holding another major event at the start of 2025. A re-evaluation will be carried out at the end of the six-month period, and a new work plan will be developed for the following six months.

The grant for the It’s Time Coalition that we are submitting for approval will assist it with advancing its joint work plan and hire dedicated staff who will focus entirely on the Coalition’s work. This contrasts the work on the July 1 event, which was mostly undertaken by staff at Shatil, Women Wage Peace, and Zazim, which created a heavy workload.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**2**50,000
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $876,316

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget: 28**%

**Advocacy**

**Peace Now and the Geneva Initiative** – a joint lobbying project to promote political discourse on the two-state solution within the Israeli public sphere via elected representatives from the liberal-democratic camp. This project serves both the building and the blocking stream, based on data from the Settlement Watch project, the Tamrur Project, and data from other actors, including the Economic Cooperation Foundation, which is presented below.

As part of a joint project run by these two organizations, a policy advocate will be hired to engage with elected officials and decision-makers and offer them regular updates on developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the Palestinian arena, and the diplomatic sphere. The goals of the project are: to educate elected officials about the two-state solution, including its central importance for Israel’s security and democracy; to provide regular briefings to elected officials; and to offer talking points that help frame current events according to their impact on a two-state solution. Further, the project will provide ongoing updates to elected officials regarding actions that harm a two-state solution, particularly expanding settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This information will be based on the expertise and connections of Peace Now and the Geneva Initiative, including links with organizations, Palestinian actors, experts, and other players working in the field, such as Tamrur, ICF, and the joint political-security unit of the Berl Katznelson Foundation and the Mitvim Institute.

Activities will include: educational sessions on the necessity and relevance of a two-state solution, including with political, security, and Palestinian experts; regular briefings on ongoing developments that hamper a two-state solution, in particular those that advance settlements, outposts, and annexation; initiating public events focused on a two-state solution; gathering information and ensuring that issues related to a two-state solution are on the public agenda, via parliamentary tools like questions, Knesset debates, speeches, etc.; distributing real-time and ongoing talking points on current events framed around a two-state solution; and promoting discussion on a two-state solution among Knesset members by amplifying and disseminating their messages on social media and in the media.

The project will involve systematic research into how the development and expansion of settlements and outposts and annexation initiatives impact on a two-state solution. This research will inform the work of the policy advocate. In addition, the policy advocate will maintain regular communication with policy coordinators from the Berl Katznelson Foundation and Mitvim to coordinate strategic activity, as well as with counterparts from human rights organizations on relevant issues. Shatil’s Policy Change Center will oversee overall policy advocacy efforts within this stream to ensure that the political lobby maximizes the impact of all its parliamentary activities so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In addition to the salary for the joint policy advocate, the grant for this project that we are submitting for approval also includes partial funding for the salary of a researcher in Peace Now’s Settlement Watch project and partial funding for a staff member at the Geneva Initiative.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $1**25**,000
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $177,723

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget: 70**%

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grantee** | **Recommended 2024 grant** | **2023 grant** | **Additional funding** |
| aChord Center  | $150,000 | $100,000 | ??? |
| Tamrur | $150,000 | --- | --- |
| A Land for All  | $100,000 | --- | --- |
| IDEA | $**75**,000 | --- | **???** |
| It’s Time Coalition  | $250,000 |  | --- |
| Peace Now & Geneva Initiative  | $125,000 | --- | --- |
| Total  | **$**850,000 |  |  |

**Recommendations for Grants – Blocking**

The grant recommendations in the Blocking stream of the new program include suggestions to continue and even increase grant funding to several human rights organizations we have supported for years through our longstanding program to combat the Occupation. However, support should be directed specifically toward strategic work aimed at blocking annexation processes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. For some organizations, we recommend dividing grants between general support for their work – which will enable flexibility and reinforce stability – and project-specific support for efforts aimed at blocking annexation. Alongside existing grantees for whom we recommend renewing and even increasing support, the new program also includes new grantees within the Blocking stream, as set out in our recommendations.

However, in light of our strategic focus on blocking annexation, the team recommends that support for Physicians for Human Rights and Machsom Watch is not renewed as part of the new program. While Physicians for Human Rights is active in Area C and aids communities severely affected by settler violence and violent action by the military, the nature of this work is not strategically directed toward preventing annexation. Further, the organization does not require resources from us to implement this work.

Regarding Machsom Watch, as noted, our recommendation is not to support this organization as part of the new program, as its activities are not strategically directed toward blocking annexation. However, we believe there is still room to continue supporting them with a symbolic grant of $35,000. This will enable this longstanding and resource-limited organization to continue to exist.

Further, it is important to note that the Protective Envelope for Activists in the Occupied Palestinian Territories project, which we initiated last year under the coordination of Shatil, will continue into its second year at a cost of $100,000. Since the presence of these activists on the ground is strategically important in curbing settler violence and the expulsion of Palestinian communities, we provide direct support to them (personal safety, legal advice, various training, reimbursing travel costs, etc.) to ensure and reinforce their work and make it sustainable.

Below are the team’s recommendations for grants in the stream related to blocking the annexation:

**Ofek: The Israeli Center for Public Affairs –** strategic international advocacy on issues pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Israeli occupation. Legitimizes and promotes measures facilitated by the international community to counter developments on the ground that undermine a just resolution to the conflict and breach international law.

The organization (led by Yehuda Shaul) was established in 2020 as an independent Israeli think-tank committed to advocating for effective Israeli and international policies to bring about a just and equitable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict via a two-state solution.

Additionally, with the escalation of settler violence that followed the war in Gaza, Ofek is working to provide the tools and resources required to build the international response. Activities include tours, meetings, briefings, as well as the production of reports, policy papers, op-eds, and letters. Advocacy targets include policymakers and foreign media. The work also incorporates support for international advocacy by Israeli public figures and civil society.

Last year, Ofek took on the role of managing a Brussels-based lobbyist, Shaqued Morag, who represents a platform of 12 Israeli civil society and human rights organizations at EU institutions (a recommendation to support this project is detailed later in this document). In light of its experience promoting international policy regarding Israel-Palestine, Ofek is working closely with Morag to oversee her approach to EU institutions.

Ofek expanded its senior researcher position from part-time to full-time. In addition, Ofek hired a part-time researcher for seven months to take advantage of the window of opportunity to advance our work on the international response to settler violence.

Unusually, the request regarding this grant is that the 12 months of activity that it covers should not run from September 2024 to September 2025 but should cover work from January-December 2024. Because of urgent developments on the ground and globally, Ofek has had to push forward its work plan and allocate funds to personnel, legal work, research, and travel to build the international response to settler violence.

As well as the situation on the ground, conditions within the international community have compelled Ofek to advance its work on settler violence. Ofek has wanted to seize and maximize the opportunity to build the response to settler violence from the United States, a leading global actor on this matter. In light of the upcoming United States Presidential election in November 2024, Ofek is highly aware that the window of opportunity is narrow. Therefore, we could not wait until September to start this work but had to begin operating at full capacity from January. For the abovementioned reasons, we recommend that the grant to Ofek cover its activity from January - December 2024.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $145,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $302,137

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 48%

**Breaking the Silence** – gathering and publishing testimonies from soldiers concerning what is happening in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the war in Gaza, conducting tours, public-facing work, and policy promotion in Israel and abroad. The organization also operates in the South Hebron Hills to attempt to prevent the ongoing expulsion of Palestinian communities and halt the annexation process. The grant we are submitting for approval will include support for both its ongoing work and for this specific project.

BtS’s strategic approach to its work in the South Hebron Hills (SHH) has been developed over a decade of work in the region and has included intensive collaboration with local residents and community leaders. Over the past years, BtS have seen that its combined approach to educational work, advocacy efforts, media pressure, and field work has been an effective way of contributing towards the protection of Palestinian villages in Area C.

As the process of dispossession accelerates at an alarming pace, further strategic efforts will be needed to mobilize the Israeli public and international community to protect the human rights of SHH communities and block the process of annexation.

The organization will do this through:

**Fieldwork**: Protective presence and solidarity efforts minimize the risk of violence to Palestinians. The organization partners with grassroots organizations who accompany Palestinian residents in their villages and as they travel to their fields to ensure their ongoing access to their lands. Through these efforts, advocates are also able to document incidents of state and settler violence toward Palestinian communities in the SHH. This documentation can then be shared with journalists to contribute to coverage of events in the SHH.

**Educational work** – The organization holds lectures and tours for Israeli and international audiences, comprised university students, civil society actors, and activists. The guided tour to the SHH includes a visit to Palestinian villages and rural areas in Area C, which focuses on the complementary mechanisms of Israeli settlement and military activity in restricting the lives of Palestinian residents of Area C, particularly in the SHH.

**Advocacy**: The organization brings Israeli and international audiences on informational tours to the SHH, which aims to educate and create connections between the communities at risk and duty bearers. These tours to the SHH have introduced politicians, diplomats, civil society leaders, as well as journalists to the reality on the ground and have raised awareness of the situation in the SHH among decision-makers in Israel and around the world. Additionally, the organization updates stakeholders on events in the SHH through briefings, position papers, and regular updates to a mailing list of 2,000 political contacts.

**Media**: The organization maintains close collaboration with journalists to increase coverage of the SHH and Area C in both Israeli and international media. This includes bringing journalists on direct-encounter tours to the region as well as providing background information and interviews for articles.

The organization currently needs additional funding to support its project in the SHH following the exit of a significant donor from the region at the end of 2023. In the upcoming year, these efforts will become more important than ever, as Israeli government policy and settler attacks place the Palestinian population in the SHH at high risk of being violently displaced from their homes, as Israel continues to implement annexation at an unprecedented rate.

The grant for Breaking the Silence that we are submitting for approval as part of the new program includes ongoing support for the organization’s work. This will help it handle the numerous testimonies from soldiers who served in the Gaza war and other needs generated by the organization’s additional strategies. This will include expanding educational activities and supporting the project in the SHH. The organization will coordinate and cooperate with other organizations active in the area, for whom we also recommend approving grants in order to increase their effectiveness and impact in curbing settler violence and annexation processes.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $1**00**,000 ($50,000 General Support + $50,000 SHH Project)
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $2,458,860
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $211,921

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 2%
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget:** 24%

**Yesh Din** – documenting and advocating against the government’s intensified efforts towards annexation of the West Bank. The organization published a report on annexation in cooperation with the Association of Civil Rights, Breaking the Silence, and Ofek, and will petition the High Court of Justice against annexation policies. The grant we are submitting for approval to Yesh Din will include both general support for the organization’s ongoing work and support for a project focused on combating settler violence and blocking annexation.

Yesh Din’s ongoing work includes:

* Law enforcement regarding Israeli civilians (settler violence): Documenting witness and victim testimony as well as assisting victims in filing complaints to Israeli authorities.
* Criminal accountability of Israeli security forces in the West Bank suspected of offenses against Palestinians: Monitoring police investigations, appealing decisions to close police investigations without conducting a criminal investigation or filing an indictment, representation at criminal trials, maintaining legal correspondence with Israeli authorities, and petitioning the High Court of Justice regarding human rights violations related to the takeover of Palestinian land and restricting the access of Palestinians to their land and resources.
* Research: Collecting and analyzing data to publish information and analysis on Israeli policy in the West Bank, Israeli and international advocacy to inform Israeli and international duty-bearers about Israeli practices and policies in the West Bank.
* Media work: To trigger media coverage of Yesh Din’s documentation and analysis of Israeli practices and policies that violate international law.

The goals of the Obstructing Settler Violence and Annexation in the West Bank project are to:

1. Block annexation policies via High Court of Justice petitions.
2. Shape and influence policy discourse, counter fake news as well as focus on the struggle in an era of information overload and multiple competing issues.
3. Equip key actors to advocate against annexation by writing and distributing simple, clear data and facts on settler violence and annexation policies.

Activities:

1. Leading two High Court of Justice petitions aimed at blocking annexation policies. Further moves toward annexation are expected in 2025, and Yesh Din will lead the legal struggle against them.
2. Creating a database of annexation policies. The new database will expand the Annexation Legislation Database that Yesh Din created in 2020 to include important annexation policies and decisions. It will offer a simple, short explanation and analysis of the ramifications. The goal of this action is to create a simple and informative tool about annexation.
3. Producing and publishing a Talking Points Guide about settler violence and annexation developments three times per year in response to current events and promoting it in public campaigns.

Target audiences include the following: Journalists, opinion columnists and commentators, podcasters, MKs and their staff, academia, diplomats and international duty bearers, international and local human rights groups, social activists, and like-minded members of the public who are not necessarily active and involved.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $1**00**,000 ($50,000 General Support + $50,000 Project)
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $1,583,133
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $50,000

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget:** 3%
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget:** 100%

**Ir Amim** – Dedicates its activity, which is entirely Jerusalem-focused, to advancing a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and preventing annexation. Its work includes monitoring and analyzing developments on the ground, which are crucial for an agreed solution to the city, and informing public and policy debate. Additionally, it is working with Israeli and Palestinian partners on public and legal advocacy for fair policies that uphold the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to live in dignity in the city and safeguarding and promoting the conditions for an agreed-upon political resolution. Re-orienting public discourse on Jerusalemby exposing thousands of people each year – from Israel and abroad – to the political complexities of the city via field-based study tours, public events, briefings, and educational programs.

Ir Amim’s ongoing work includes:

* Legal and public advocacy against dispossessing Palestinians of their property through (i) unilateral, *de-facto* annexation involving the development of Jewish settlements; (ii) demolitions and evictions; (iii) exploitation of Settlement of Land Title procedures (sometimes facilitated by the General Custodian).
* Legal and public advocacy for (i) a fair, non-discriminatory Planning Law in East Jerusalem; (ii) protection of the Old City basin by preventing settler tourist projects and evictions; (iii) protecting the *status quo* of Temple Mount/Haram a-Sharif.
* Monitoring implementation of (i) the Five-Year Government Plan (880) for investment in East Jerusalem, and (ii) the delivery of municipal services in East Jerusalem.
* International advocacy regarding all aspects of the above.
* Public outreach, including (i) seminars and study tours for the general public and organized groups (e.g., young adults in pre-military service programs, educators); (ii) campaigns, events, and webinars; (iii) Hebrew, Arabic, and English media and social media.

During past attempts to resolve the conflict, which is perceived as an obstacle to peace, the complex issue of the future status of Jerusalem has always been put on the “back burner.” However, this past year of devastating war has proved the invalidity of the concept of “managing the conflict.” In light of this, Ir Amim proposes that the time has also come to rethink the role and place of Jerusalem in working towards an agreed political resolution. In fact, the organization proposes reversing the approach: instead of an obstacle to peace, Jerusalem, in all its complexity, should be seen as the starting point and key to a sustainable and implementable settlement – and as a model for resolving the conflict.

The basic rationale behind the aim to introduce this innovative “Jerusalem first” approach in the organization’s work is as follows: Jerusalem is the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its litmus test, and also the only place where two large populations, Israeli and Palestinian, live in a shared urban space. Both peoples see it as their capital and the focus of their national, religious, and historical ties. This reality is a source of tension but also recognition and interdependence. Therefore, Jerusalem can serve as a model for resolving the conflict.

Ir Amim’s latest policy paper: “Hope for Jerusalem - 13 Principles for the Future of Israeli-Palestinian Peace: Jerusalem as the Capital of Two Nations,” will inform all areas of the organization’s work to:

* Monitor and report on developments on the ground;
* Advocate with local and international stakeholders and decision-makers for the rights of both Israeli and Palestinian communities to live in dignity in the city – and in accordance with international human rights law and the recently issued ICJ advisory opinion; and -
* Re-orient public discourse vis-à-vis Jerusalem via our wide-ranging outreach activities (study tours, public events, briefings, educational programs).

The grant for Ir Amim that we are submitting for approval will be for general support for the organization's activities, which include both capacity-building work (promoting a political settlement with a focus on Jerusalem) and containment work.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $80,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $1,389,236
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget: 6**%

**Emek Shaveh** – Promoting the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by challenging the attempt to use cultural heritage sites as a means of justification for annexation of land owned and used by Palestinians.

Emek Shaveh works to defend cultural heritage rights and to protect ancient sites as public assets that belong to members of all communities and faiths. The organization monitors, exposes, and reports on developments in cultural heritage sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza). It influences Israeli authorities to change its current policies regarding the management of cultural heritage sites, provides professional research capabilities, and expands the overall understanding of the field with supporting information and analysis.

The organization’s project on blocking annexation will focus on:

1. Monitoring and exposing the methods used by the government to present only the Jewish heritage of the land. To this end, Emek Shaveh will monitor plans for developing cultural heritage sites and new legislative activities that aim to erase the distinction between Israel and the West Bank, and give precedence to funding the conservation of Jewish cultural heritage sites. Emek Shaveh will disseminate the data it collects in reports, tours for the public, and campaigns on social media.
2. Expand and strengthen relationships with individuals and organizations working in cultural heritage in Israel and abroad. Emek Shaveh will disseminate data concerning the problematic use of archaeology in Israel and encourage these individuals and organizations to pressure decision-makers in Israel to change current practices and policies. This will be achieved through tours, lectures, and briefings for professionals, as well as social media campaigns.
3. Advocacy through meetings, tours, and briefings with decision-makers on a municipal, national, and international level to change current policies concerning the use of cultural heritage sites in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
4. Formulating alternative practices for the management and development of cultural heritage sites as platforms emphasizing the multicultural nature of the region. In this way, cultural heritage sites will be transformed into ways of promoting trust-building and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

The grant that we are submitting for approval for Emek Shaveh will be earmarked for support of its project to block the process of annexation through the use of cultural heritage sites. It will assist the organization in its mission to promote the safeguarding of cultural heritage sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and transform them into a means for creating dialogue and mutual recognition between Israelis and Palestinians.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**5**0,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $258,277
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget: 19**%

**Haquel** - Strategic litigation on behalf of Palestinian landowners faced with extreme settler violence and constant attempts by settlers and the Israeli government to annex land in Area C.

Haqel’s approach to strategic litigation is unique. It is based on 19 years of close coordination and cooperation with its beneficiaries, combined with the constant presence of field staff who inform the legal team of daily developments on the ground. Haqel is the only legal aid organization operating on land rights violations in the SHH and the Bethlehem area. It cooperates daily with activists, international and local volunteers in the field, and multiple Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations on joint projects with Breaking the Silence and on common principled issues including collaboration with Bimkom, B’Tselem, ACRI, St. Yves, JLac, and Yesh Din.

Haquel leverages strategic litigation to uphold the rights of 10,650 Palestinians in the SHH, the Bethlehem area, and Jalud Valley, including by: holding duty bearers accountable for settler and army violence and demanding implementation of the rule of law; reducing the frequency and severity of violence by addressing emergencies in real-time; challenging land encroachment and the use of violence as a tool for expulsion and the takeover of land by the Israeli government.

Activities: Submission of appeals, petitions, and letters to demand land access, counter land access prevention, challenge settler and army violence, and prove land ownership; running an emergency hotline to tackle and respond to tens of daily incidents of settler and army violence and ensure ongoing follow-up work through legal intervention; monitoring and documenting events on the ground by Haqel field staff, and using documentation in legal action; strengthening ongoing land rights violation cases by continuing legal procedures to prevent displacement.

The grant that we are submitting for approval will enable Haqel to hire additional lawyers to manage the volume of work required to tackle increased violations in existing cases and to take on additional land rights violation cases as a result of increased demand.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**5**0,000
**2024 Expected Organizational Budget:** $531,641
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Organizational Budget: 9**%

 **Rabbis for Human Rights** – Reducing settler violence towards Palestinian communities in Area C through Protective Presence (Unarmed Civilian Protection) and increasing the security of these communities. In addition to supporting this project, we also recommend designating support through Rabbis for Human Rights for the Jordan Valley Activists (more details are provided below).

The Rabbis for Human Rights project will provide four days per week of protective presence to Palestinian communities in the northern Jordan Valley and in Masafer Yatta in the southern Hebron Hills, which are suffering violent harassment from settlers. As part of the project two field coordinators will train activists each month to provide protective presence. The goal is for four to eight activists to go out into the field each week with the field coordinators and provide assistance to Palestinian communities.

The annual goal of the project is to increase the number of protective presence activists in the West Bank by 300 and to build accessible infrastructure for new activists to join. These activists will be supported by field coordinators and will go out into the field with a vehicle, who are equipped with first aid skills, knowledge of the law, and skills in documenting incidents of violence. They will also have proficiency in Arabic and be familiar with Palestinian communities. The project team will collaborate and coordinate its activities with other players and activists operating in the northern Jordan Valley and the southern Hebron Hills.

In addition to supporting this project by Rabbis for Human Rights, we recommend directing support through the organization to the work of the **Jordan Valley Activists**, a longstanding and dedicated group of volunteer activists who are present on the ground 24/7. They provide assistance to Palestinian shepherding communities to continue their way of life and protect them from violence by settlers and the Israeli authorities.

The work of the Jordan Valley Activists includes identifying and preventing settlers and their herds from encroaching on grazing lands and agricultural fields belonging to Palestinian shepherds; monitoring and addressing the shrinkage of Palestinian grazing areas; identifying intentional damage, road closures, the sealing of water wells, and the demolition of structures within Palestinian shepherd communities. They also tackle equipment confiscations by the Civil Administration and conduct surveillance on the establishment of new illegal outposts on private Palestinian land and/or land expropriation.

Through the methodology of protective presence, the Rabbis for Human Rights project, alongside the work of the Jordan Valley Activists, aims to reduce settler violence against Palestinian shepherds and farmers in these areas, increase their sense of security, and help them build community resilience. The grant we are submitting for approval for the Rabbis of Human Rights project and the work of the Jordan Valley Activists will help them achieve these goals.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $75,000 ($50,000 for RHR + $25,000 for Jordan Valley Activists)
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $205,263
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget: 24**%

**Joint International Representative (in Brussels) for The Platform: Israeli NGOs for Human Rights –** a collaboration of twelve human rights organizations in order to enhance international advocacy to defend and promote the human rights of Palestinians under occupation.

The organizations involved in The Platform are: The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Bimkom, Breaking the Silence, Combatants for Peace, Emek Shaveh, Gisha, HaMoked, Ir Amim, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, Torat Tzedek, and Yesh Din.

The Platform maintains a strategic partnership with Ofek: The Israeli Center for Public Affairs, an organization with wide experience in European advocacy, to assist The Platform in developing a work plan, training, and strategic planning. Along with coordinating joint advocacy campaigns such as statements and briefings and collaborating through consultative group meetings, The Platform collectively employs a qualified representative in Brussels (Shaqued Morag).

The main objective of the project during its second year is to increase the collective impact of the Israeli human rights sector further. This will be achieved by:

* Further strengthening of interorganizational coordination.
* Maximizing resources and avoiding duplication of efforts.
* Responding to new developments with a unified voice through joint statements, briefings, and diplomatic updates.
* Publishing and publicizing The Platform’s second annual joint report on human rights issues in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories for Israeli and international stakeholders.
* Professional visits by Platform directors and staff members to advocate in Brussels and other European capitals.

In the second year of the project specifically, The Platform’s plans for joint work include:

* Establishing The Platform as an authority on developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by mapping further European advocacy targets beyond those in its already established network in order to increase Shaqued’s reach.
* Mobilizing this network to amplify the information coming from the field by sending periodic updates, organizing meetings of organizations from Israel in Brussels, oral briefings to politicians, diplomats, and officials in EU institutions, and connecting journalists to interviewees from the organizations.
* Monitoring activities in the European Parliament and EU institutions on Israel-Palestine issues and attempting to connect The Platform’s organizations’ fieldwork with opportunities to raise awareness of these issues in discussions in the various arenas.
* Enhancing the capacity of The Platform’s individual members for international advocacy and strengthening coalition work so that we can share information in real-time, avoid duplicating efforts, and initiate joint action where appropriate to increase the impact of the organizations’ work.
* Publishing a joint report of collated research and issues that each organization is working to address jointly and separately, as well as carrying out a media campaign around the report.
* Establishing a website for The Platform for transparency of our brand and activities, including sharing statements, position papers, and relevant media work.

Topics to be addressed by The Platform as part of its advocacy efforts include: the shrinking space for civil society in Israel; humanitarian access in Gaza; impunity for settler and state violence in the West Bank; forcible transfer and displacement of Palestinians; conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and ad-hoc detention facilities; the conduct of hostilities; annexationism, specifically in the context of Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank; and the judicial overhaul in the shadow of the war.

The 12 organizations that are part of this project have undertaken to provide $3,000 each from their core budgets for the representative’ssalary – a total contribution of $36,000. The grant we recommend is approved for this project and will cover the remaining amount for the representative’s annual salary ($80,000).

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**5**0,000
**2024 Expected Program Budget:** $131,578
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Program Budget:** 38%

**Putting together and implementing a joint strategic initiative in East Jerusalem** – developing an experimental pilot for coordinated and collaborative work between civil society organizations and key activists. The focus of this initiative is to curb the activities of settler organizations operating in the area that would create the conditions to prevent the division of Jerusalem in any future political agreement. It should be noted that this is an experimental initiative that is in its early stages, and we aim to assess its potential before a formal work plan is developed and submitted for approval next year.

During 2023, around 6 months before October 7, NIF’s Grants Department began a strategic thinking process regarding East Jerusalem. This considered how to focus activities in this area, with optimal cooperation between key organizations and activists. As part of this process, we began working with Dr. Eran Tzadok, who over a period of time met with relevant stakeholders and compiled a report with specific recommendations. The report, completed in January 2024, proposes a strategic initiative to develop mechanisms for joint work between civil society and liberal actors in Jerusalem. These mechanisms aim to counter the influence of two settler organizations in the city, Elad and Ateret Cohanim, which seek to change the political situation in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Historic Basin. Their actions aim to isolate the Old City from the Palestinians through various means, including planning and construction, tourism development, national parks, and the settlement of Jewish settlers in Palestinian neighborhoods. In combination, these efforts seek to create a Jewish continuity that disconnects East Jerusalem from the Old City and prevents the division of Jerusalem in any future political agreement.

Following the submission of the strategic recommendations report for East Jerusalem, a launch meeting was held with representatives from civil society organizations and key activists. Following this, a process began to translate the report’s recommendations into collaborative efforts with the organizations and develop an operational work plan. To this end, work began recently with a project coordinator who has been tasked with creating a pilot to drive forward the strategic initiative. The pilot comprises three working groups – legal work, narrative work, and adversarial research and campaigning. Each working group aims to create initial action pathways in its respective area. These will lay the foundations for broader collaborations and the development of specific recommendations by the end of October to enable effective, collaborative work.

The grant that we are submitting for approval to advance the strategic initiative in East Jerusalem will be transferred via Emek Shaveh and will cover the project coordinator’s salary during the pilot development phase. It will also fund initial oppositional research focused on settler organizations.

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**5**0,000
**2024 Expected Program Budget:** $**5**0,000
**% of NIF Grant out of Total Program Budget: 100**%

**The Economic Cooperation Foundation** – This project brings together leading human rights organizations with former senior officials from security agencies and relevant government ministries to map and analyze current developments regarding steps toward annexation. Additionally, it aims to create a comprehensive action plan for the first 100 days of a new government. The goal is to restore the situation on the ground to a state that enables a two-state solution to be achieved. This project is part of the renewal of the new program since meetings between human rights organizations and senior security and government officials do not occur regularly.

The Economic Cooperation Foundation has worked in the political arena for around 30 years. It was established by Yossi Beilin, Yair Hirschfield, Nawaf Masalha, and Ron Pundak to promote Israeli-Arab cooperation, specifically between Israelis and Palestinians. The Foundation drafts position papers on various issues related to Israeli-Palestinian relations. The former military personnel involved include retired Major Generals Nitzan Alon and Gadi Shamni, as well as other senior security figures.

The project we recommend supporting aims to establish a joint forum that brings together security, legal, and policy experts with specialists from human rights organizations. The forum’s discussions will serve as a basis for drafting policy papers that will include practical recommendations for actions that various bodies can take to counter annexation and address the escalating violence on the ground.

The forum will formulate a strategy to implement its conclusions within the various bodies and will work towards creating change based on the recommendations that are developed. These will be translated into domestic and international policy advocacy efforts and public-facing work. After mapping and analyzing current developments concerning the government’s annexation measures, a comprehensive action plan will be developed in collaboration and coordination with the joint political unit, which is already working on this as part of its Rebuilding initiative. This plan will detail the steps that should be taken in the first 100 days of a new government in order to annul the annexation. It will outline the legal, administrative, and political measures required to curb and annul the annexation plans. This will include mapping the key powers and areas of responsibility needed to implement these measures. With assistance from former senior security and government officials, policy advocacy will be conducted vis-à-vis key audiences to highlight the implications of annexation and encourage them to mobilize against these measures.This

**202**4 **Staff Recommendation:** $**50**,000
**2024 Expected Project Budget:** $50,000

**% of NIF Grant out of Total Project Budget: 100**%

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grantee** | **Recommended 2024 grant** | **2023 grant** | **Additional funding** |
| Ofek | $145,000 | --- | ??? |
| Breaking the Silence  | $100,000 | $50,000 | ??? |
| Yesh Din | $100,000 | $50,000 | --- |
| Ir Amim | $80,000 | $50,000 | --- |
| Emek Shaveh | $50,000 | $30,000 | --- |
| Haquel  | $50,000 | --- | ??? |
| Rabbis for Human Rights  | $**75**,000 | --- | ??? |
| International Representative (in Brussels)  | $50,000 | --- |  |
| East Jerusalem joint project | $50,000 | --- |  |
| ECF | $50,000 | --- |  |
| Total  | $750,000 | --- |  |
| Total Building + Blocking  | **$1,**6**00,000** |  |  |