

The Crisis In Israel and Building a Shared Society
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
Speaker Bios



Nawa Jahshan Batshon, CEO of Co-Impact

Nawa Jahshan-Batshon is an Organizational Psychologist and Consultant. Nawa has committed years of professional work to promote employment diversity in Israel through the advancement of Arab employment and has a particular passion for women's employment. In June 2014, Nawa joined Co-Impact as head of the Organizational Consultant Team and Interface with Arab Society. Later she became Co-CEO and head of the Employers Department. Nawa was appointed CEO of Co-Impact in January 2019. Prior to joining Co-Impact, Nawa founded MAWARED (resources in Arabic), a consulting and organizational development business that serves various companies and NGOs. She completed her M.A. in Organizational Psychology at Ben-Gurion University. Nawa was born and raised in Jaffa. She now lives in Beer Yaakov with her husband and three children.



Co-Impact: The Partnership for a Breakthrough in Arab Employment

The employment of Israel's Arab population is one of the main challenges facing Israel's society and economy. Co-Impact empowers the largest companies in Israel to become diverse and inclusive workplaces and builds strong multi-sector partnerships to increase the number of Arab employees working in the private sector in Israel.



Ariel Dloomy, Co-Executive Director of AJEEC-NISPED

Ariel has extensive experience with community development and conflict resolution, having worked with the Arab Bedouin community of the Negev for more than 15 years. Under his leadership, AJEEC-NISPED has received the President of Israel's Excellence Award. Ariel is the founder and Chair of SID – the Israeli branch of the Society of International Development – a forum of international and Israeli organizations (governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental) working in international humanitarian aid and international development. From 2011 to 2016, Ariel served as Co-Director (along with a Palestinian counterpart) of the Arab Peace Initiative (API) Regional Network, a forum of civil society activists and organizations from the Middle East working together to promote regional peace. His interest in Arab-Jewish dialogue is part of his own background – his father's family were Jews from Iraq. In 2012, he co-founded *Abdalak*, an initiative that brings together Israeli Jews of Iraqi origin and Muslims from Iraq to neutral third countries for dialogue and exchange. Ariel was born and raised on Kibbutz *Nahal Oz* in the Western Negev. He holds a Master's Degree (with honors) in Middle East Politics from the University of London and a BA (with honors) from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



Kher Albaz, Chairman of AJEEC-NISPED

Kher is an expert in government policy on social topics and current trends in the Bedouin society. He is involved with a variety of initiatives in the fields of community development both on the local and national levels. He served as a member of the board in diverse civil society organizations including Sapir College, the Abraham Fund, A Circle for Good, Midot and more. For many years, Kher was the regional director of social services for the Bedouin villages of Segev Shalom, Kseifa, Ararara and the unrecognized villages of the Negev. He also worked in the Canadian social service system for three years.

Kher lives in Tel Sheva and is married with seven children. Kher has an BA in social work from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a MA in Social Planning and policy from WLU University in Canada. He also holds an MBA from the University of Haifa. In addition, he has completed numerous courses in the management of social and economic systems. He enjoys music and science fiction movies.



AJEEC-NISPED: Arab-Jewish Center for Empowerment, Equality, and Cooperation; Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Economic Development

AJEEC-NISPED is a joint team of Jews and Arabs working together to promote socio-economic development and peacebuilding among communities in transition. They work with the local Negev Bedouin community, with Arab and Jewish populations in Israel, with partners in neighboring countries, and with beneficiaries from across the developing world.



Avital Blonder, Executive Director, Jindas

Following an extensive career in the education and social services field, Avital Blonder founded Jindas in 2013. Jindas focuses on urban rejuvenation by building and strengthening partnerships between Lod’s diverse populations, inspiring full resident participation in social change initiatives, implementing a comprehensive and holistic development plan and restoring Lod’s historical status as an important Israeli city.



Jindas was established to promote social mobility through the use of physical and community urban regeneration processes, with an emphasis on Israel’s socio-geographic periphery. The organization initiates and leads inclusive, long-term rental housing projects, alongside an array of social services, based on a proven international model that creates cooperation between the public sector, the business sector and civil society.