



## Annual Report 2014

### Letter from the Director

The following pages will provide you with an impression of some of the activities conducted by the School for Peace (SFP) this year. This has been an intensive year of courses and seminars. It has not been an easy year; the difficult war with Gaza this summer left many civilian casualties. In the lead up to the war, and during the war itself, we saw an increase in anti-Arab racism in Israel. This only strengthened our belief in the necessity of dialogue work, changing awareness, and social activism for socio-political change in the direction of peace, justice, and equality.

In this report you will find out about our four ongoing university courses at Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University, the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, and for the Student Union of Ben Gurion University. One of our goals for 2015 is to expand our academic programs to more colleges and universities.

In this report, we share with you accounts of our three change agents training courses for Arab and Jewish professionals; the course for mental health professionals; teachers; and facilitators of groups in conflict. Graduates of these courses have already begun to implement changes in their work places, facilitate groups, and teachers have begun teaching the literature of the 'other', in their classrooms and in the teaching colleges where they teach. Some graduates have also made psychological services available to the Arab community and organised a conference of psychologists, with the organisation PsychoActive, on the topic of the relationship between therapy and politics.

This report presents the experiences of the high school participants of the SFP youth encounter workshops, as well as the process the staff of WASNS' binational bilingual primary school went through by SFP. It updates you on our public political activities that we began together with 30 peace and human rights organisations in order to work for equality and against the occupation and violence.

We believe that there is no other way for the future of this country and the future of the two peoples living in this region, than to promote the values of equality, justice, and peace with understanding and respect for the other. The thing that gives us the strength to continue is the profound sustained changes our course participants undergo. For many of them our courses and programs are life-changing experiences. Adv. Michael Sfard, who is one of the leading human rights lawyers in the country, said in an interview: *"Maybe I'll start from the bottom line; without a hint of exaggeration, the course unequivocally changed my life and is a landmark in my development as a human being and definitely as an Israeli."*

Thank you to all who supported us and enabled us to carry out this work. Please continue to enable us to develop and expand on this work in the future. Thank you also to the dedicated staff; Wasim Biroumi for project management, Bob Fenton for fundraising and development, Faten Abu Ghosh for office management, Mali Sharabi for office maintenance, and the fundraising and development Interns Liat Tuv and Esther Pinck.

**Dr Nava Sonnenschien**, Director of the School for Peace



Dr. Nava Sonnenschein  
meeting Archbishop Rev.  
Desmond Tutu

# Report

## Creating Agents of Change

This year the School for Peace focused on working with young leaders, who have the ability to influence larger populations, utilizing their skills and connections. Among the SFP's projects in 2014 were: a **Change Agent Course for Mental Health Professionals**; **Training Course for Palestinian and Israeli Literature Teachers to Teach the Literature of the Other**, and a **Training Course for Facilitators of Groups in Conflict**.

### Mental Health Professionals

Working with mental health professionals has become a priority for SFP as mental health professionals are those who are left to 'pick up the pieces' of those who pay the highest price for the conflict. They are considered spokespeople for society and their voices are heard when social policies are debated.

*"How much more pain will both sides have to endure? Even in this war with Gaza, the suffering was asymmetric. I am leaving this course with determination and a desire to act in several areas: 1. the need to change the occupation and reduce the suffering it causes. 2. relations in Israel between Jews and Arabs, which are rooted in the occupation. The two issues cannot be separated. Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom is now in my heart and I'll come here often" -*

**Jewish Israeli Participant**



*"I approached this course prepared to speak openly about everything. I came with a lot of anger and expected to convey it; I expected to be met with extremist Jewish views which would feed my anger. Suddenly I found myself among a left-wing group that understands how difficult it is for me. I felt a part of the group, both personally and emotionally. That was before the war. When the course resumed after the war, I worked a lot on myself cognitively and emotionally. It was like taking a step up and suddenly falling down. I leave feeling unoptimistic about the situation but then again I am very happy about the relations I established here. If we build on these good connections, and keep in touch, we can change something in the country." -*

**Arab Israeli Participant**

This unique 13-month course for mental health professionals began with a four day experiential workshop at Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The group consisted of 14 participants, 5 Palestinian citizens of Israel and 9 Jewish citizens of Israel. All the participants are mental health professionals including social workers, clinical psychologists, rehabilitation psychologists, educational psychologists, art therapists, and a bibliotherapist.

The course began with a four day experiential workshop at Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom with the participants taking part in a series of monthly lecture and discussion sessions with experts in psychology and related fields. These were led by clinical and educational psychologist Wasim Biroumi on language; Professor Mustafa Kabha on the Nakba and war of 1948; Dr Ariella Friedman on gender, national, ethnic and social aspects of working with groups; and Dr. Yousef Nashef, a resident of Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom and educational psychologist, on issues affecting the work of psychologists who treat people from the 'other' nationality or who supervise mental health professionals from the 'other' nationality. Additionally, Dr. Nava Sonnenschein lectured on the theories and development of racial and ethnic identities, sharing her research on this issue in working with groups. Professor Uri Hadar lectured on resistance and violence in the postcolonial context and in therapy; and psychologist Hani Biran lectured on Wilfred Bion's teachings on groups, and led a seminar on social dreams. The participants were engaged by these lectures, which were all followed by fruitful discussions. Each month two participants took their turn facilitating the discussion. This contributed to participants developing and improving their skills in facilitating work with bi-national groups.

In addition to the lectures, there was a day-long meeting in which the group toured Hebron in order to understand first hand, how the political situation affects the life and mental health of the Palestinian community. The tour took place alongside an active project of the NGO, B'Tselem, called 'Shooting Back Hebron'. We visited the deserted Shuhada Street, saw settlers, and heard from a Palestinian activist of B'Tselem, who presented the activities they conduct and the harassment being carried out by Jewish settlers in the Tel Rumeida neighbourhood. The visit was important as we met with Palestinians that shared their day-to-day experience of life under occupation.



After 13 months of lectures, discussions and peer facilitation sessions, the course came to a close. As part of the final meeting we screened a South African film by Ginn Fourie, whose daughter died in a terrorist attack. The film portrays her meeting with the perpetrator of the attack and the process of moving from victim to survivor. We discussed the recent war with Gaza, and one participant presented an article she had written that used the knowledge and insight she gained in this course. Participants filled out evaluation questionnaires and were granted certificates in a closing ceremony.

### **Training Palestinian and Israeli Literature Teachers to Teach the Literature of the Other**

Literature can be a powerful tool, and students in the classroom are an easy group to reach and influence. Literature has the ability to 'humanize' and share the experience of 'the other' in a way that is less confrontational and allows time to think while stimulating discussion. For

these reasons, the School for Peace developed its training course for Palestinian and Israeli literature teachers. With each course we are able to reach close to 20 teachers who, when they return to their classrooms, implement curricula that reach hundreds of students.

*"I am part of a committee within the Palestinian education system working to counter incitement. It was established by the Palestinian Authority. As a result of this course I succeeded in having the text books in all Palestinian school books changed. I had the term "Zionist enemy" changed to the "Israeli occupation". As a result of this course I have encouraged my students to meet with the "other side" and change their one-sided image of Israelis as haters of Palestinians."*

**- Palestinian participant**



*"What I have experienced here opened a window for me that wasn't opened anywhere else. I bring current affairs to the class, and I chose to teach Nidaa Khoury's poem in class. I have also added the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into my school's curriculum."* - **Israeli participant**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we started a monthly course for literature teachers who are Jews, Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians from Palestine. This was run in collaboration with the NGO, **Tawasul**, who has been our partner for many cross-border programs. We began the course with a three-day intensive seminar designed to introduce the Palestinians and Israelis to each other and to their views and narratives. During this meeting, three youth from Jenin were killed in a clash with the Israeli army. One of the participants knew one of the youth and it became an important topic of discussion. Despite the very difficult feelings, participants were able to discuss the incident, sharing their feelings and views. The discussion strengthened the participants' commitment to continue to fight to change the current relations between Jews and Palestinians and to bring this into the classroom with their work with their students.



In the following months, professionals in the field of literature provided lectures, including Dr. Esam Mouslat, on Palestinian Literature in the Context of the History of the Conflict; Dr. Maram Msarwi, who translated famous works of the Palestinian national poet, Mahmoud Darwish; and others.

During the summer, due to the war in Gaza, the course was suspended for a short period. It resumed again with a meeting in Beit Jallah,

a small village in Palestine accessible to Jews and Palestinians. This venue was used for subsequent meetings. In October Professor Yigal Schwartz – head of the Literature Department at Ben Gurion University and a member of WASNS – and Tahsin Yakin – a publicist and expert on Palestinian literature – both lectured on the theme of refugees in Israeli and Palestinian literature. In November there was a lecture from Professor Nidaa Khoury – a lecturer in the Department of Hebrew literature at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who has also published six books of poetry – on women in Palestinian literature. The day ended with a simulated lesson by an Israeli teacher and discussion on gender in the work of Palestinian writer Sahar Khalifeh. Finally in December there was a lecture by Dr. Mimi Haskin, from the kibbutzim college, which was followed by a simulated lesson on the poems of Ayman Kamal Aghbariya. In each meeting of the course a teacher presented a simulated lesson, utilizing a piece of literature of the ‘other’, and then received feedback from their colleagues.

These lessons stimulated discussions among the participants on topics such as alienation, refugees, military conscription, gender and the relationship between literature and political education.



During the course, many of the teachers began to utilize what they had learned and implementing it in their classrooms, exposing high school students to various aspects of ‘the other side’. In questionnaires administered after the course, all the participants indicated that the course increased their commitment to changing current relations between Jews and Palestinians in Israel, and between Israel and Palestine.

### **Training Facilitators to Work with Groups in Conflict**

At the heart of all of the School for Peace programs is its unique intergroup method, for working with groups in conflict. It has lead international courses on working with groups in conflict and teaches this in Israeli universities. More than any other institution in Israel, the School for Peace has been responsible for developing a professional standard for working with groups in conflict. We teach Jewish-Arab group facilitation through a long-term specialized training program geared specifically for facilitation. Our graduates work in programs throughout the country as a cadre of professional facilitators confidently equipped to lead in this challenging work. Many graduates continue in the profession and become leaders in peace and human rights groups in the region.

*"I want to say that the workshop helped me clarify my own identity and belonging to my people. I am happy and proud that I made this important step in my life. I have changed a lot through the course. I became more knowledgeable and feel a responsibility to my people. Today I am more committed to help them strengthen their identity."*

**- Arab participant**



*"I feel the course is the beginning of a long journey. The first part has exposed me to many voices, feelings, information. I want to re-examine what I have learned and how I previously perceived the situation. I have new lenses for seeing our reality in Israel. My view on the conflict between the two people has widened."*

**- Jewish participant**

In February 2014 we successfully concluded our 30<sup>th</sup> group facilitator course, which was led by **Dr Nava** Sonnenschein and Wasim Birumi. This four month course put 15 young professionals on the road to working with groups in conflict with the School for Peace's world renowned model. So far the SFP have trained about 1000 facilitators of groups in conflict, many of whom now run and lead their own organizations for Arab-Jewish peace and human rights organizations.

The participants of this course came from leading social change organizations and organizations dealing with the Arab-Jewish conflict. These included: NISPED, Emek Saveh, Zochrot, PsychoActive, One Voice, and Magal. All the participants are interested in entering the field of facilitating meetings between Jews and Arabs and to learn the facilitating method developed by the SFP.

As part of the course the participants attended lectures, received academic reading material and had intense group discussions on aspects of the Jewish-Arab conflict and the role their own identity plays within it. They also learned the skills needed for facilitating groups in conflict through peer facilitation. During the course, participants kept a diary on their experiences and analyzed the process they went through. These newly trained facilitators began the course with different levels of experience in the field of conflict resolution, yet they all left with a new awareness of the issues of the conflict, their own identity, and skills to work with groups in conflict.

## Further Courses

Alongside our longer-term courses for change agents we also ran **two youth encounter programs** this year and, for the first time, a **training course for the WASNS primary school staff**.

### **Educating Educators – Training Course for WASNS Primary School Staff**



There are very few schools in Israel where Jews and Arabs learn together using two languages and celebrate each other's holidays and cultures. For the 2014 school year, the SFP ran a monthly workshop, led by **Dr Nava Sonnenschein** and psychologist, **Wasim Birumi**, for the teachers and parents of Wahat al Salam – Neve Shalom Primary School. The teachers met from January to June, for a series of 6 monthly sessions.

The teachers addressed different educational issues that arise in a bi-national school environment. Many important educational issues came up and are now being addressed. Some central issues included: how to encourage more joint play during school breaks; how and what to teach during uni-national days when one group is not at school; how to improve the honouring of national holidays of both people; and many more. According to the then-principal, Anwar Daoud, the teachers felt more comfortable to talk about current affairs with each other after taking part in the training, and more such conversations took place in the staff room.

Through work with the teachers and parents, the School for Peace and the WASNS Primary School could process the complexity of living and learning together in mutual respect and equality breaking new ground. We think that this sort of workshop should be made available to the staff and parents of other binational bilingual schools, who must also work through the same complexities.

## Youth Encounter Workshops

The School for Peace began by working with youth and building new generations of Arabs and Jews who can talk and live together.

*"When I first got here I thought we could leave the country as it is, a Jewish state that has Arabs in it, but now I cannot call it a Jewish state and think that it will be good for its Arab citizens"* – **Jewish participant**

*"I have a dream that instead of Jews and Arabs we become 'we'"* – **Arab participant**



This year, in November and December we ran two workshops for high-school youth. We found that there were more students that were interested in meeting than we could accommodate. This was a surprise as we thought that the war in Gaza this summer would raise more fear and anger rather than interest and a desire to meet and talk.

The first workshop was with the Givat Brenner and Nazareth High School and had 64 students (32 from each school). We had to divide up this group and they met at Wahat al Salam – Neve Shalom, for a three day intensive workshop. The first day included cultural and personal acquaintance. On the second day the students discussed political topics connected to the relations between the two peoples. Several issues were raised, such as discrimination against Arabs by the state; the war with Gaza this summer; the army (the Jewish students are a year and a half before conscription); stereotypes; Jewish fears; and many other issues. Despite the sensitive and painful nature of these issues, under the guidance of the facilitators, the group succeeded in speaking about them in respectful way,



The group also ran a simulated peace negotiation between the Israeli State and the Palestinian Authority that focused on future relations between Jews and Arabs. The negotiation lasted several hours. There were four groups and each negotiated different issues; the nature of the state; ceremonies and symbols; security; education and reconciliation. At the end of the negotiation we set up a 'press conference' in which representatives from the 4 groups presented the

agreements that they had reached and the points on which they remained divided. It can be said that the agreements the youth reached were more democratic and advanced than what occurs in the state today on the macro level. The last day was devoted to analysis of the simulated negotiations, writing letters to the group, and a summary discussion.

The second youth workshop was carried out with the Givat Brenner High School and Taybeh High School and also had 64 participants. It was run in the same manner of the first workshop, except the 3-day program was carried out over two days, making it a much more intense experience for the participants. Evaluations of our youth encounter workshops participants have shown that it provides the youth with a very meaningful experience where they addressed important and challenging issues. The youth have expressed that it is a new and surprising experience giving them a better understanding of the complexities of Jewish-Arab relations. We have seen how many of these youth come back and participate in other programs that we run in universities and at the SFP.

## Working with our Graduates



SFP have seen that thousands of graduates leave our courses with a commitment to work for social change and many have gone on to work for national and international NGOs dealing with peace, social justice and human rights. We are in the process of publishing a book containing interviews with a wide range of our graduates and the impact our courses have had on them and the ways they act for change.

The SFP's greatest resource is these graduates and we have been thinking of ways to assist them. To this end the SFP has begun **regional forum meetings** for our graduates; there have been numerous meetings in Nazareth, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and we are hoping to expand these. The meetings with our graduates focus on the current situation in relationship to peace and equality and identify opportunities to impact change. The SFP then works with the graduates in developing ideas and projects relevant to their local communities. The graduates have shown great enthusiasm in these meetings and many have already begun projects.

In addition to the regional meetings, the SFP held **three forum meetings for our facilitators**. The forum meetings were well attended and included WASNS village members who have taken part in SFP courses over the years. In the meetings facilitators presented work they are currently doing to promote social change. The SFP also facilitated **reunions for two recent change agent courses**, the up-and-coming politicians course and the course for environmentalists. Participants discussed what they have done since completing the course and shared ideas on how they can use the knowledge they gained in the course for future projects.

Each year hundreds of people go through School for Peace programs that transform them into 'change agents' for peace and social change. They go on to work at various levels throughout Israel and the world. Here are just a few examples of our graduates' activities this past year:

Tova Buxbaum, a graduate of the SFP's mental health professionals course, organised weekly public "peace dialogue encounters" held every Sunday in Tel Aviv. She did this through her work with the Bereaved Families Forum. The events, open to the public, featured representatives of peace and human rights organizations that engaged the public in dialogue on peace and the war that was raging throughout the summer.

Michal Fruchtman, Tali Larnau, and Efrat Ibn Tzur, all graduates of SFP's mental health professionals course, wrote a booklet with Prof. Charlie Greenbaum outlining the psychological importance of providing special rights for the protection of minors (Palestinians) during interrogation and detention. The booklet is part of a broader project by Maya Mochmal, a graduate of the SFP's facilitators' course, who is involved in PsychoActive's initiative to protect the rights of incarcerated Palestinian minors.

Samer Swaid, a graduate of SFP's facilitator course and up-and-coming politicians course, worked with the SFP and The Arab Center for Alternative Planning to create our current change agents course for urban planners, civil engineers, and architects.

Wafaa Ibn Bari, a graduate of SFP's facilitators' course, works for the Negev-based NGO, AJEEC and manages their 'tent' project. The tent project is made up of hundreds of volunteers that work for social change among Jews and Bedouin Arabs in the Negev. Jewish and Arab volunteers, teenagers and university students, volunteer in 140 different activities across the Negev in schools, public institutions, clinics and more.

Erez Tzimhoni, a graduate of SFP's change agents course for environmentalists, was active in the Green Party's struggle against the use of shale oil. The party succeeded and shale oil was removed from the agenda by a Jerusalem district committee, as 11 members out of a 12 voted against it. Erez wrote a document that helped the struggle. He is also very active in promoting the employment of Arab environmentalists.

Mohamad Marzouk, graduate of our facilitator course, is the head of the communities division in the at Hand in Hand Center for Bilingual Education. He is organizing community activity in places where the organisation runs schools. Marzouk organizes social centers jointly owned by Jews and Arabs, allowing open dialogue and joint actions.

## **Academic Courses**

SFP has an established academic reputation and it continued to build on this reputation with university courses (over the last 25 years the SFP conducted 64 courses across academic universities), academic connections, and advances in the development of the World Peace College which will be part of WASNS programs.



*"I came out of this course with an experience. I had knowledge about the conflict before but this course taught me how to share that knowledge with the person opposite me, in such a way that the dialogue can actually achieve something. I learnt how to open up and influence the emotional aspects of dialogue so that it becomes a deeper conversation; so that it is 'real talk'." – Arab participant*

*"This course is a real gift. It broke down many of my stereotypes about Arabs. The volunteer work I did in the course revealed to me how the state relates to Bedouin citizens. It was the first time I was in the Bedouin City of Rahat." – Jewish participant*

In October 2014 SFP began its 24<sup>th</sup> year of running a joint university course with **Tel Aviv University** (TAU) "The Arab-Jewish Conflict in the Mirror of Theory and Practice". The SFP is continuing its work with **Ben Gurion University of the Negev** (BGU) and, in the academic year 2013-14, for the first time, expanded its course to include a second semester. The second semester adds practical work in Jewish-Arab relations and social change with organizations in the Negev that work for citizens and human rights. The yearlong program was a great success and prompted a request by the **BGU Student Union** to run a course with them. This year SFP also ran a course at the **Arava Institute** and a workshop for students at the **Academic College of Social Sciences and the Arts in Netanya**.

The SFP has been working in partnership with the University of Massachusetts, Boston to create a **World Peace College** at WASNS. The proposed college, and its academic course work, has passed several stages required for official recognition by The Israeli Council for Higher Education including receiving a high recommendation for approval. We anticipate the beginning of the program in autumn of 2016.

**Academic visits to the SFP** this year included: Professor Simon Schama from Columbia University; Dr. Edward Kessler from the Woolf Institute in Cambridge, England; Professor David Matz of University of Massachusetts Boston; and we welcomed a group of research students studying conflict studies at Tel Aviv University. Among the places the students were from are: Warsaw University, University College London, and Kent University.

## Expanding our Partnerships and Contacts

This year the SFP has continued working and strengthening our ties with our Palestinian partners. We continue our fruitful working relationship with Ramallah-based NGO **Tawasul** jointly running our course for literature teachers. We also look forward to working with two new Palestinian partners in the future; the **Arab Center for Alternative Planning** in the Galilee, and **Inma** in Jenin. Every Israel-based NGO seeking to work with NGO's from Palestine faces the issue of organizations not wanting to work with Israeli organizations as it 'normalizes' the present situation. The SFP is generally accepted as the SFP-Tawasul approach focused on activism for social and political change adding credibility to our programs. During the summer war in Gaza we postpone our cross-border literature teachers' course but the course resumed and was successfully completed.

**Saeb Erekat** (pictured right), the primary Palestinian negotiator of Oslo and a number of other negotiations, received a copy of our literature anthology which we use as a teaching tool in the literature teachers' course. It was presented to him by Marwa Jbara-Tibi, a village member and journalist. At a later stage a copy of this book and other material from the SFP, was also passed on to **Abu Mazen**, President of the State of Palestine, by Dafna Karta Schwartz, a village member and director of the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center at WASNS. This summer Nava Sonnenschein met the **Archbishop Reverend Desmond Tutu**, in South Africa, who said "*at times, when you may feel alone in your country, remember that there is an old man in South Africa praying for peace and the School for Peace.*"



We have also hosted several important guests at the SFP. In October we hosted the French Ambassador to Israel, Patrick Maisonnave, and in November had an interesting meeting with Shaun Casey, the US special Representative for Religion and Foreign Policy.

## **International Press and Fundraising**

It has been a good year for the SFP in international outreach. Our proposal to the Journalist Writers Foundation (JWF) in Turkey succeeded in winning a \$50,000 grant. The JWF is a Muslim Foundation promoting peaceful coexistence in the world. The SFP was one of the 10 successful candidates out of the 1,179 organizations, from 107 countries, that received this recognition. Dr. Nava Sonnenschein represented SFP at the JWF summit where she met with colleagues from around the world. She is now working with to organize a **global initiative with women** international women's forum.

Further strengthening the academic reputation of the SFP, Dr. Sonnenschein represented the SFP at the Slomoff Symposium on Bridging the Global Religious Divide at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and attended several university lectures and conferences during



her important trip to South Africa. Additionally, while in South Africa Dr Sonnenschein appeared on Islamic TV (pictured left). The interview can be viewed on the [SFP website](#).

## Political Activism

Compelled to act against this summer's war in Gaza and increased expressions of racism in the country, the SFP established a committee to promote peace and human rights among the Israeli left and human rights and peace organizations. It held its first strategy planning meeting at the Fred Segal Peace and Friendship Library. The meeting was attended by many key figures of the Israeli left and was a great success.



As a result of this meeting a demonstration in support of Israel's Arab citizens was held in the Arab town of Tira. It was attended by hundreds of Jews and Arabs and many key figures of Israel's left. Speakers included Members of Knesset, Muhammed Barcha and Dov Hanin. A video of the event can be watched [on our website](#).

Dr. Nava Sonnenschein was inspired to develop this committee after an eye opening trip to South Africa, where she learned from their experiences about the importance of working together towards ending the occupation. The committee has met four times in 2014 and will continue to work in 2015. As part of this joint effort the SFP ran a **daylong conference**, on the conflict in Gaza and its repercussions. The event was filmed and is available on YouTube, links can be found [on our website](#).



A steering committee grew out of the forum, which met in November to discuss how to reach out to Arab Israeli organisations as well as the religious and Russian communities. As part of its work, the committee made a formal visit to Ramallah to attend a meeting held by the Palestinian Committee for Interaction with Israel, headed by Dr. El Madani. The attendance at the meeting stimulated new ideas of how each side can work to promote the peace process in their own countries and how they can work together on the international front. Central ideas included: initiating more joint actions promoting peace of local populations; supporting efforts for U.N. recognition of Palestinian statehood; and gaining greater media coverage for visits of Palestinian officials to Israel and Israeli officials to Palestine.

## Looking Ahead to 2015

With the new year of activity underway the SFP already has several significant projects in progress and others being planned. This year we will continue to adapt and apply the change agents course model to several groups. We have begun working with **Tawasul** on another literature teacher course that will continue into 2015. In January 2015, we began a change agents course for architects, engineers and planners in cooperation with the **Arab Center for Alternative Planning in the Galilee** with 30 Palestinian and Jewish participants from all over the country.



We have also begun a course for influential Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel's **mixed cities**; the rise of inter-communal violence in Israel has been the worst in mixed cities so it is essential to have projects that address core issues in these regions.

We will also begin a new **facilitators course** in April 2015. This year we plan on running a facilitator course for AJEEC (the Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation) and have been exploring the possibility of running a course at Cape Town University in the summer, between students and activists in the community

We will continue our academic work in 2015 with our annual courses at **Tel Aviv** and **Ben Gurion University**, and following this year's successes, will run another course with the **Ben Gurion University's Student Union** (advert for the course pictured right). Two courses will also be launched with the **Open University of Israel**. Our vision is to have a course in every higher education institution with mixed Arab-Jewish student bodies.

We are planning an academic conference for the spring, which will be funded by IAS and will be run together with the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The conference will focus on the topic of **"Dilemmas of Recognizing Asymmetry in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from a Comparative Perspective"**. The panels and presentations will include leading academics from Israel and abroad.



We hope that the **new global initiative with women** in peace and justice will also begin this year. Women suffer the violence of war but do not usually get a say in their country or community's decision relating to conflict yet research shows that women have great potential to bring about peace and justice. With this in mind, we hope to bring together 24 women leaders of peace from both sides of four different regional conflicts. The countries would include: Turkey, Israel-Palestine, India and South Africa.

We are looking forward to continue and expand on our work in the year ahead.



Don't forget to visit our new website for updates on our activities:  
[www.sfpeace.org](http://www.sfpeace.org)