



## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016 – APRIL 2017

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) is an issue driven, non-profit organization protecting the human rights and civil liberties of all people living in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Since its founding in 1972, ACRI has worked with the courts, the Knesset, and civil society to tackle the most urgent injustices in our country. We uphold the pillars of democracy by targeting duty bearers, protecting human rights defenders and marginalized communities, and advancing a public discourse of human rights using litigation, policy advocacy, and education.

The following report details ACRI's key activities and achievements between December 2016 and April 2017.

## Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

### ❖ Rights of the Arab Minority in Israel

#### Right to Equality

In March 2017 the Knesset approved at the Second and Third Readings an amendment to the Israel Land Authority Law mandating **the appointment of an Arab member of the Israel Land Council**. Since the establishment of Israel, no permanent Arab representative has served on the Council, which is responsible for 93 percent of state land. The Law was amended following a [petition](#) we submitted to the Supreme Court in 2010 together with the association Itach-Maaki demanding due representation of women and Arabs on the Council. As a result of the petition, three women now also serve on the Council as the representatives of government ministers who are Council members.

- At the end of December 2016, ACRI submitted a [petition](#) together with Adalah, in the name of MK Dr. Yousef Jabareen, against the **"Expulsion Law."** This Law is an amendment to the Basic Law: The Knesset enabling 90 Members of Knesset to depose a serving Member of Knesset. We argue that the amendment violates constitutional rights, the right to vote and to be elected, freedom of political expression, and the Arab minority's right to representation and equality.
- In April 2017 the Knesset approved at the Second and Third Readings the so-called **"Kaminitz Law,"** which requires **stricter enforcement and penalization for building offenses**. The Law can be expected to cause particular harm to Arab citizens. We participated in the intensive discussions

on the proposed law in the Knesset Interior Committee, submitted [position papers](#), and coordinated the activities of a coalition of organizations campaigning against the Law. We managed to include various changes in the Law that may moderate its ramifications for Arab citizens.

- ACRI wrote to the Minister of Education regarding the **new budgeting method for the colleges of education**, noting that the method discriminates against students on the basis of their national identity and place of residence. Following our appeal, it was reported in December that the Ministry of Education had decided to withdraw the new method.
- ACRI wrote to the Members of Knesset asking them to vote against the “**Muezzin Law**,” which prohibits the use of PA systems in houses of prayer during certain hours. The main goal of the law is to restrict the use of PA systems for the call to prayer in mosques. The Knesset passed the Law at its Preliminary Reading at the beginning of March.
- ACRI continued to work vigorously to improve **access to public services in the Arabic language**. The areas we are involved in include: PA announcements on buses and trains; the translation of information and leaflets in nature reserves and parks; translating the Director-General’s Circulars in the Ministry of Education; enhancing access to services in the Executor’s Office (translation of forms, employment of Arab clerks, PA announcements in Arabic in the offices, etc.); and access to welfare services in the mixed cities.
- Following the conclusion of proceedings in our [petitions](#), ACRI is continuing to monitor the changes in the inspections at the airports (profiling) and to receive updates from the Ministry of Education and the Municipality of Nazareth Illit regarding the establishment of an Arab school in the city.
- ACRI representatives are active members of several **coalitions and forums** working to promote the rights of the Arab minority. These include: The Coalition Against Racism, the Monitoring Committee for Plan 922, the Coalition to Promote the Rights of Palestinian Women Citizens of Israel, the Action Committee for Equality in Personal Laws, the Forum for Equal Opportunities at Work, and the Forum of Associations of Collective Impact.

### **Promoting the Rights of the Bedouin Population in the Negev**

On 18 January 2017, **grave incidents occurred during the demolition of homes in the unrecognized village of Umm al-Hiran**. The events led to the death of a resident of the village and of a police officer. Before the details of the incidents had been clarified, and despite conflicting testimonies from the scene, senior police and government figures, followed by the media, related to the incident as a terror attack. Speakers condemned the deceased Bedouin Arab man and claimed that he was a terrorist and a sympathizer of Islamic State. ACRI published a [public position](#) calling for the formation of an independent committee of inquiry to investigate the incidents in Umm al-Hiran and urging the authorities to halt the demolition of homes and eviction of residents from the village. After ACRI received reports from the village of serious violence by the police against residents and against activists protesting the demolitions, we also [wrote](#) to the Chief Commissioner of the Israel Police demanding that police officers be reminded of the procedures for crowd dispersal.

About one month later, it was reported that the investigation by the Police Investigations Department had not found any evidence to suggest that the incident in Umm al-Hiran was a terrorist attack. The investigation emphasized defects in the Police conduct.

- At the end of March 2017, a ruling was granted for ACRI's petition regarding **the lack of civil defense protection in the Bedouin Arab villages in the Negev**. The Court ruled that the petition had been rendered obsolete, and accepted the plan submitted by the Home Front Command, which we believe is inadequate. However, following the petition, a number of protective structures were installed in the recognized Bedouin villages, though not in unrecognized villages.
- After years of involvement by ACRI, the saga of the postponement of elections in the regional councils of Al-Qasum and Neve Midbar finally reached its conclusion. Democratic elections were held in the councils for the first time.
- ACRI continued to work with Bimkom and Adalah in an effort to persuade the planning authorities not to allow the establishment of a **phosphate mine** at Sde Barir in the Negev. The planned mine is liable to harm the residents of the region as a whole, and particularly to jeopardize the health, environment, and planning rights of residents of the Bedouin Arab villages.
- ACRI continued to monitor government plans and proposed laws concerning the Bedouin population in the Negev and to respond in the legal and public fields. Among other issues, we responded to the five-year plan proposed by the Minister of Agriculture, as well as to attempts to promote a problematic law, identical in its format to the Praver Plan, relating to the land ownership disputes between the Bedouin and the state.

## ❖ Social and Economic Rights

### The Right to a Dignified Existence

ACRI petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of five individuals who were disconnected from the electricity supply due to debts, demanding that **the issue of the disconnection of poor consumers be resolved**. We obtained an interim decree prohibiting the disconnection of the petitioners' electricity pending a ruling in the petition. We also submitted detailed comments on a draft version of criteria for disconnection published by the Electricity Authority. During the period of this report, and in cooperation with the Human Rights Clinic at Tel Aviv University, we processed over 20 individual cases of disconnection of electricity due to debts. The individuals involved were sick, disabled, or families with young children. In all these cases we managed to prevent disconnection and to arrange for the payment of debts in a manner consistent with the consumers' financial capabilities.

- ACRI is continuing to promote two proposed laws we drafted concerning **debtors' rights**. We also help debtors who are subject to harassment by the local authority. We managed to cancel obsolete debts, remove interest fees, and agree payment schedules with the authorities.
- Following ACRI's activities, Magen David Adom published for the first time on its website the criteria for granting discounts and exemptions for debtors living in poverty.

- The National Labor Court accepted our principled position that **the denial of supplementary benefit** to someone who receives assistance from relatives gravely violates the right to a dignified existence. Such an action cannot be undertaken by virtue of a procedure, but only on the basis of primary legislation. A legislative memorandum was published and we submitted our comments.

### **The Right to Health**

- ACRI continued to lead the campaign to promote [reform in the nursing system](#). The subject received exposure and public discussion in almost all media outlets, and was also discussed by the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women. ACRI submitted a joint position paper on behalf of all the organizations to the interministerial committee responsible for proposing policy changes. ACRI also contacted the Minister of Welfare on the subject of day-care community frameworks for elderly people requiring nursing care.
- ACRI submitted a freedom of information petition against Magen David Adom, after which we received data relating to the [deployment of ambulances and arrival times](#) throughout Israel. The figures reveal large gaps between the periphery and the center of the country, as well as between Arab and Jewish communities. The media reported widely on the statistics.

### **Rights in the Welfare System**

- Following ACRI's Supreme Court petition, the Ministry of Welfare published for the first time in 21 years new regulations for the work of the "decision committees" responsible for the removal of children from the home. The regulations adopt many of the demands we raised in the petition. The Ministry of Welfare also agreed in principle to our demand to formalize the work of the committees in primary legislation, and a legislative memorandum is due to be published on this subject.
- Following ACRI's [demand](#), the Ministry of Justice announced that it will promote a law formalizing the right to legal representation for parents in cases when the welfare system wishes to impose mandatory therapy or remove a child from the home.
- Following ACRI's request, the Ministry of Welfare has promised to publish new regulations regarding the right to change a social worker, and to inform welfare offices of their obligation to provide social information to their clients.

### **The Right to Housing**

- In December a ruling was granted in our petition against the exclusion of priority housing compounds from the requirement to provide **affordable housing**. The Supreme Court rejected the petition but emphasized its guidelines for the strict implementation of the provisions of the Law.
- In April the Supreme Court ruled in our petition and established that **marketing apartments for the national-religious public alone** is contrary to the anti-discrimination clause in the tender of the Israel Land Authority. The Court issued a declarative decree requiring the Be'Emunah housing company to market apartments to all those interested. However, it declined to rule that the manner of publication was contrary to the tender conditions, arguing that this issue is being discussed before the attorney general.

- We submitted a petition against the Israel Land Authority demanding that it impose a fine on the Mishab company after it discriminated against an Arab customer in a housing project.

### **The Right to Education**

- Tel Aviv – Jaffa District Court accepted our [position](#) and rejected a petition by parents demanding that entrance tests continue to be given to children wishing to attend the Nature School.
- ACRI submitted an administrative petition against Jaljuliya local council and the Ministry of Education on behalf of five minors and their mother. The council had refused to register the children at educational institutions. The petition was accepted.

## **❖ Civil and Political Rights**

### **Freedom of Expression and Protest**

Since Culture Minister Miri Regev entered her post, [she has repeatedly attempted to interfere in the content of artistic works](#) and the activities of cultural institutions expressing positions that differ from her own political views. We wrote to the Attorney General and to Minister Regev after she threatened to cut budgets to local authorities or prevent cultural events going ahead. In April the Supreme Court granted a decree nisi in our petition regarding the tests for support to cultural institutions. The Court instructed Minister Regev to explain why she should not abolish the amendment she made to the tests stating that support will be cut for institutions that refrain to appear in settlements and that bonuses will be provided for institutions that appear in settlements.

- In February, after [three Supreme Court petitions submitted by ACRI](#) and after decades of hearings, the Knesset passed at the First Reading a law to **abolish the Press Ordinance**, which granted the interior minister sweeping powers to curtail the freedom of press.
- Following ACRI's petition, the Supreme Court imposed important restrictions on the ability of the General Security Service to **summons social and political activists to "warning conversations."**
- ACRI submitted a [petition to the Supreme Court](#) opposing the decision by the Second Television and Radio Authority to **reject three sentences in an advertisement by ACRI on the subject of human rights** (including the sentences "to speak Arabic without being afraid" and "my right to love and marry who I want, even if I'm gay.")
- ACRI contacted the Ministry of Education regarding **restrictions on teachers' freedom of expression** and regarding the [ministry's attempts to prevent schools from inviting representatives of Breaking the Silence](#) to give talks.
- ACRI is working to combat a flood of legislative initiatives and administrative actions intended to **intensify the scrutiny and censorship of the internet**. Among other actions, we submitted position papers and participated in discussions of the relevant Knesset committees regarding the blocking of websites and offensive online publications.
- ACRI submitted a suit against Tel Aviv University opposing its policy of collecting **payment from students** to cover security costs for the university's public activities.

- ACRI continued to work on our petitions opposing the Jerusalem Municipality's restrictions on protest activities and demanding that the Police be required to publish permits for gatherings and processions.
- We represented demonstrators and organizers of protests against the Police and secured the withdrawal of **unnecessary demands included in the conditions for approving the demonstration**.
- As part of ACRI's [Docu-Rights Project](#), we continued to hold meetings and training sessions for activists and protest groups and to update and disseminate rights leaflets and informational material. We also submitted a claim for damages against the Police on account of assault and the breaking of the camera of ACRI staff members during the project activities.

### **Prisoners' Rights**

- ACRI continued to work on our petitions regarding [overcrowding in prisons](#) and detention centers in Israel, and regarding the cancellation of family visits to prisoners on the Sabbath.

### **The Right to Privacy**

- ACRI participated in the discussions of the special committee established to discuss the **biometric database**. ACRI explained our opposition to the proposal to require all residents of Israel to register with the database and presented our reservations and alternative suggestions for the detailed arrangements.
- ACRI participates regularly in the Public Council for the Protection of Privacy (Ministry of Justice); the Forum to Enhance Transparency in the Government Freedom of Information Unit (Ministry of Justice); and in the forum of experts established by the Israel Democracy Institute to draft an amendment to the Protection of Privacy Law.

## **❖ Migration and Status**

In February, Petach Tikva Municipality began to **disconnect the electricity and water supply** to subdivided apartments inhabited mainly by asylum seekers. The Mayor declared that this was his way of banishing the asylum seekers from the city. ACRI submitted two [petitions](#) to the Central District Court, arguing that the disconnection of electricity and water gravely violates the rights of dozens of children, women, and men to dignity and basic living conditions and was undertaken for improper motives. The Court took the position that we should submit an appeal to the District Appeals Committee relating to each individual case and clarify its circumstances. Accordingly, we submitted a request for permission to the Supreme Court. ACRI argued that it is vital to clarify the draconian policy as a single entity, rather than forcing asylum seekers and human rights organizations to submit dozens of separate appeals.

- ACRI submitted a Supreme Court petition together with partner organizations against the Law authorizing the **confiscation of one-fifth of the salaries of asylum seekers**, to be repaid only when they leave Israel.

- ACRI continued to work on our petition demanding that the authorities permit food to be brought into the Holot detention facility. ACRI also continued to advance [a series of petitions](#) submitted together with asylum seekers and partner organizations concerning the conditions at Holot: severe overcrowding; the prohibition against bringing in personal equipment; the lack of computers and educational and leisure activities; and the appalling service provided by the Population and Migration Authority at the facility.
- ACRI continued to work on our petitions demanding the provision of legal aid for foreign citizens present in Israel, and demanding the abolition of a regulation denying migrant workers, asylum seekers, and Palestinians **access to the labor courts**. ACRI also continued legal proceedings initiated by Kav LaOved concerning **bilateral agreements for bringing migrant workers to Israel**.
- As part of ACRI's Israeli Children project, we are continuing to provide individual legal assistance for families who encounter difficulties in renewing their status, families whose application for status is rejected, and families waiting for a response.
- ACRI is assisting several stateless persons and foreign partners of Israeli citizens in proceedings for **formalizing their status** in Israel.
- Together with Adalah, ACRI is representing Alaa Ziwad, an Israeli citizen convicted of involvement in an attack, in a proceeding instigated against him by the Interior Minister to **revoke his citizenship**. Our position is that criminal law, rather than the revoking of citizenship, is the way to confront serious crimes. Revoking citizenship is discriminatory, based on alien considerations, and disproportionate.

## ❖ Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

ACRI launched a campaign marking the **fiftieth anniversary of the occupation**, [writing](#) to the Prime Minister to ask him to clarify officially the borders of the state. ACRI also published an ed-op piece on the subject. ACRI representatives participated in **conferences** and gave **lectures** to diverse audiences on the subject of the two legal systems in the Territories, the detention and imprisonment of minors, the Separation Barrier, and other themes.

### ◆ West Bank

At the beginning of February 2017, the Knesset approved the "**Regularization Law**," which permits the **confiscation of privately-owned Palestinian land in the West Bank**. During the legislative process ACRI participated in discussions of the Special Knesset Committee established to consider the Law. ACRI also expressed our opposition to the Law in the media. At the beginning of March we submitted a [petition](#) to the Supreme Court, together with 27 heads of Palestinian local councils and 12 Israeli human rights organizations, demanding that the Court order the nullification of the Law. We argue that the Law is unconstitutional, since it grossly violates the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty; it violates absolute prohibitions in International Humanitarian Law and the law of occupation; the application of the Law is liable to implicate citizens and officers seeking to implement its provisions in war crimes; and the Knesset is not empowered to regulate land law in an area subject to military control and outside the sovereign territory of the State of Israel

- ACRI submitted an appeal to the Attorney General against the decision by the Judge Advocate General to close the investigation against Colonel Yisrael Shumer, who shot and killed a Palestinian youth who threw a stone. In our media work regarding the appeal, we discussed the open-fire regulations and the accountability of soldiers and of the law enforcement system.
- In April the Supreme Court granted a ruling in ACRI's [petition](#) against the excessive and discriminatory periods of detention imposed on Palestinians in the West Bank. Following the petition, the periods of detention imposed on Palestinians were reduced significantly. In its ruling, the Court ordered the military commander to shorten further the periods of detention, though it accepted the state's request that the new periods only be applied from May 2018. The Court also allowed the military commander to retain the authority to change the periods of detention in the future, if he found it proper to do so for security reasons.
- ACRI published [statistics](#) concerning the detention of Palestinian minors in the military legal system in the West Bank.
- ACRI continued to work on two long-term proceedings relating to the displacement of Palestinians from Area C by means of the planning and building system: a Supreme Court [petition](#) against the state's intention to expel some 1,000 Palestinians from villages in the Southern Hebron Hills in the area declared as Firing Zone 918; and a Supreme Court petition against the intention to demolish the village of Khirbet Zanuta, also in the Southern Hebron Hills.
- ACRI prepared a comprehensive study of the water crisis in the West Bank. In light of the insights raised by the study, ACRI submitted freedom of information requests to Mekorot water company and the Civil Administration.
- ACRI continued to work on the petition we submitted to the Supreme Court together with Kav LaOved concerning the defects in the management of the sick leave fund for Palestinian workers.

### **East Jerusalem**

- ACRI continued to work on our petitions and to hold meetings with representatives of the residents and the authorities regarding the water supply in neighborhoods beyond the Separation Barrier and mail services in East Jerusalem.
- ACRI wrote to the Commander of the Jerusalem District Police and to the Ministry of Justice to protest against repeated police raids on homes in the Ras Khamis neighborhood, undertaken without judicial orders or proper authority. The purpose of the raids is to survey the residents and homes in the neighborhood. The media reported on our complaint and led to a discussion at the Knesset Interior Committee, which we attended.
- ACRI contacted the Border Police Commander for the "Jerusalem Envelope" area and held meetings with officials concerning Sawahreh Checkpoint on the edge of the Jabal Mukabber neighborhood. We are demanding changes to the policy and conduct of the soldiers and police officers at the checkpoint in order to ensure freedom of movement and maintain the dignity of those using the checkpoint – particularly school students, sick people, and the elderly.
- ACRI wrote to the Commander of the Jerusalem Police to demand the removal of a roadblock installed on one of the main access roads to the Jabal Mukabber neighborhood following an



attack. We argued that the roadblock was disproportionate and unreasonable, and that the Police has no legal authority to restrict the freedom of movement of an entire neighborhood for protracted periods. The roadblock was removed a few weeks later.

- ACRI participated in two seminars organized by UNICEF on the subject of the detention of children in East Jerusalem. We also held several workshops and lectures on the subject.
- ACRI continued to work with the Ministry of Health and the Jerusalem Municipality in order to promote the opening of an additional mother and child clinic in East Jerusalem.
- ACRI continued to oppose the discrimination in funding against Palestinian schools in Jerusalem and the shortage of classrooms in East Jerusalem.

## ❖ **Public Hotline**

ACRI Public Hotline is currently operated by six volunteers, with regular assistance from ACRI's interns. The hotline provides a response in Hebrew, English, Arabic, and Russian, including information about securing rights and addressing violations of rights; referral to peer organizations and to the Legal Aid Division of the Ministry of Justice; and correspondence with the authorities. During the period of this report, we received approximately 1,500 complaints. The issues we addressed included:

- Violation of rights by the Population and Migration Authority during proceedings for formalizing status and other issues;
- Local authorities that prohibit political activities in the public domain and in public facilities within their area of jurisdiction;
- Complaints by non-Jewish soldiers of pressure applied to them in the military to convert.

## Human Rights Education

### ❖ Pedagogic Content

Six years ago, ACRI managed to ensure that the education system marks the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** (March 12). Since then, ACRI has run extensive activities each year to encourage teachers and schools to mark the day, and to raise the need for education against racism on the educational agenda. This year, too, ACRI developed special lesson plans for the day, including an interactive presentation (in cooperation with the Center for Educational Technology, the Civil Education Administration, and the Mofet Institute) and a video clip. The materials were accompanied by a Facebook campaign (see Public Activities below), and we received very positive feedback from educators.

- In preparation for Human Rights Week in 2016, ACRI distributed a [poster](#) on the right to housing to some 6,000 educational institutions, together with educational material and lesson plans in Hebrew and Arabic.
- “The Workshop” – the website of ACRI’s Education Department in Hebrew and Arabic includes a large database of materials relating to education to democracy and human rights and education against racism. The website is updated regularly with lesson plans and posts about issues on the public agenda and information about the Department’s projects and conferences and events in which ACRI is involved. We also disseminate newsletters in Hebrew and Arabic to thousands of educators. During the report period, the average monthly number of unique visitors to the Workshop websites was 1,844 for the Hebrew site and 5,090 for the Arabic site.

### ❖ Training, Workshops, Conferences, and Seminars

- During this reporting period, ACRI held five in-service training programs for Jewish and Arab educators.
- Together with the Red Cross, ACRI held two [training programs](#) on the subject of **International Humanitarian Law in Israel** for approximately 30 legal professionals and for approximately 20 activists in civil society organizations. We also held workshops on this subject in six pre-army preparatory programs.
- As part of the project The Power of a Word (in cooperation with Midreshet Adam and with the support of the EU), ACRI held two seminars on the subject of **freedom of expression** for teachers and students from 25 Jewish and Arab schools. ACRI also held a conference at the University of Haifa for approximately 200 participants.
- During **Human Rights Week** in December 2016, ACRI held a conference at the Departments of Sociology and Citizenship at Oranim College, attended by some 200 students and lecturers, and a national conference for approximately 250 teachers of media studies (journalism and new media).

- ACRI held several events to mark **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**: An experiential seminar in cooperation with the Ministry of Education’s Civil Education Administration, the Center for Educational Technology, and the Mofet Institute, attended by approximately 120 people; a conference at the Kibbutz College on the subject of coping with racism in religions and traditions; a conference at Beit Berl on the subject of education against racism in early childhood; and a seminar on coping with racism for students at Levinsky College.

## ❖ Policy Advocacy

ACRI works with senior policymakers in the Ministry of Education and the teacher training colleges with the goal of maintaining dialogue on education to democratic values and human rights and the struggle against racism. Among other activities, ACRI participated in meetings of the Knesset State Audit Committee relating to the State Comptroller’s report on education to prevent racism and promote coexistence. ACRI gave a lecture to a special committee appointed by the Ministry of Health to combat racism in the health system, and we engaged in correspondence with the Ministry of Education on behalf of various coalitions of educational organizations.

## Public Outreach

ACRI’s Public Outreach staff work to raise awareness of important issues relating to human rights in Israel and the territories under its control, and to provide information to the public in Israel and elsewhere. Various tools are used to this end, including policy advocacy with the Knesset, government, and other authorities; work with the traditional media and social networks; and organizing public activities and campaigns.

## ❖ Policy Advocacy

ACRI invests considerable efforts to combat legislative initiatives that threaten to reduce democratic space in Israel. During the report period, we opposed the Expulsion Law, as well as the proposed “V-15 Law,” which seeks to restrict the activities of extra-parliamentary bodies during elections, and is liable to damage freedom of expression and association. We also opposed proposed laws seeking to end tax exemptions for NGOs and to restrict their ability to receive National Service volunteers. After the end of the Knesset’s winter session, ACRI published an [updated report](#) summarizing antidemocratic bills and initiatives.

ACRI’s policy advocacy activities include regular working meetings with Members of Knesset, ministers, and senior civil servants; submitting position papers on various issues in which ACRI is involved; and participating in Knesset committee discussions. In addition to our struggle against antidemocratic initiatives, we also worked with policymakers on a wide range of issues, including: the “Kaminitz Law,” which requires stricter enforcement and penalization for building offenses; representation of women

on the Israel Land Council; monitoring the implementation of Plan 922 for the economic integration of the Arab minority; government policy toward the Bedouin citizens of the Negev; the right to water; gaps in health services between the periphery and central Israel; nursing hospitalization; arrears interest on debts; professional training, and other issues.

ACRI also submitted position papers and participated in conferences, meetings, and discussions as part of our membership of **coalitions and forums**, including: The Coalition for Direct Employment; the Open Democracy Forum; the Coalition Against Racism; the Workers' Rights Forum; the Forum for the War on Poverty; and the Coexistence Forum.

## ❖ **Media**

Over the months covered by this report, ACRI received hundreds of mentions in the Hebrew and Arabic media, including: news reports about ACRI's activities; our reactions to issues on the public agenda; and coverage of events in which ACRI participated. ACRI staff members were interviewed by leading media outlets and published opinion pieces.

The main issues addressed by our media work in Hebrew included: Our struggle to reverse the disconnection of electricity for asylum seekers in Petach Tikva; the ruling in ACRI's petition prohibiting the marketing of apartments for religious Jews only; our petition against the Regularization Law; the unlawful delaying of buses carrying ultra-Orthodox Jews by the Police; our petition against the disconnection of electricity for consumers with debts; the violation of the freedom of speech of Breaking the Silence and the persecution of the organization; the abolition of the Press Ordinance; the lack of adequate rehabilitation services in the periphery; and our petition against the disqualification of a public service broadcast by ACRI.

Issues addressed by our media work in Arabic included: The repair of sewage lines in Shuafat refugee camp; violation of freedom of expression in schools; our demand to remove roadblocks at the entrance to Jabel Mukabber; house demolition policies in the Arab communities; our demand to establish an independent committee of inquiry to investigate the incidents in Umm al-Hiran; our petition against the disqualification of ACRI's public service announcement; our petition against the transfer of authorities to the Settlement Division in the Jewish Agency; the ruling in our petition concerning warning conversations with activists; statistics on the detention of children in the Occupied Territories; our petitions against the Regularization Law; the "Muezzin Law."

## ❖ **Internet and Social Media**

During the report period ACRI continued to be very active in the social media and on various online platforms. Our regular activities on **Facebook** include reinforcing ACRI's campaigns and key petitions; addressing issues on the public agenda; campaigns on key issues; and encouraging actions to apply specific pressure on decision makers. Our intensive work has resulted in an impressive increase in the number of Facebook likes we receive and in the sharing of our content. The number of likes on ACRI's Hebrew-language Facebook page rose from 49,557 to 63,703 from January to April, and as of April our

posts are viewed by over 100,000 people every week. ACRI's Arabic-language Facebook page rose from 14,412 likes to 16,631 during the same period, while our English-language page rose from 5,735 to 6,109 likes.

**ACRI's website** in Hebrew, English, and Arabic is updated daily with the latest information about court hearings, Knesset decisions, and ACRI's activities. All our publications are available on the website, which is widely regarded as a key source of information on human rights issues in Israel. During the report period, the Hebrew website received an average of 25,137 views a month; the Arabic and English sites received an average of 2,875 and 1,847 views, respectively. During the same period, a total of over 2,200 views were recorded for ACRI's micro-sites – particularly the [nursing campaign](#), followed by the [2016 report](#), the [human rights survey](#), and the Deleting Discrimination campaign.

On **Twitter**, ACRI now has approximately 16,270 followers in Hebrew and 3,390 in English. ACRI's **YouTube** channel regularly uploads video clips. As of April 24, 2017, the channel has 2,644 registered subscribers, while the total number of views of video clips is 2,713,547.

**ACRI's newsletters:** We continued the format of the [weekly personal-style newsletter](#), which is sent every week to approximately 13,200 subscribers in Hebrew and monthly to 3,340 in English. Our [Knesset Newsletter](#) is sent every week when the Knesset is in session, and has 3,450 subscribers in Hebrew and 940 in English. Our international media distribution list has approximately 680 subscribers.

**Campaigns:** our campaigns include intensive policy advocacy work, media activities, and publicity on our website and social media. During the report period we launched three campaigns:

- **The “Regularization Law:”** We initiated public action in order to explain the injustices of the Law to the public and to apply focused pressure on Members of Knesset.
- **International Women’s Day:** We presented our “Men in Their Own Words” quiz on our Facebook page, newsletter, and website. The quiz featured a selection of sexist remarks by politicians and public figures. The quiz page on the website received over 3,200 views and some 2,000 people participated in the quiz.
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racism:** ACRI's educational and public teams jointly launched a campaign on Facebook in Hebrew and Arabic to promote racism against education. The posts included links to educational materials developed specially for the International Day. Between 50,000 and 300,000 people were exposed to each post, which received an average of 1,500 likes and 450 shares.

## ❖ **Public Events**

The annual mass gaga lesson for human rights, which is run fully by volunteers, was held on April 28, 2014 in Hangar 11 at Tel Aviv Port. The event was led by Ohad Naharin and the Batsheva dance troupe. Approximately 600 people participated in the event.

## ❖ **Volunteers**

ACRI currently has 17 active volunteers, including six who work on the public hotline, four other permanent volunteers (membership renewal and volunteer screening, YouTube subtitles, and legal

research for the welfare project), six short-term volunteers (in the Education Department, Public Outreach, the Exposing Discrimination project, and the International Department), and a volunteer in a one-time project (mapping organizations).