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New Members of Knesset from the Shaharit Network sit together in the Knesset

Brief Note

In these challenging times, our work continues. We present to you the following updates from our work in the past few months. Thank you for your continued support.



Diverse Israeli leaders in the 120 Program on a recent border tour (with social distance)

Two Shaharit Women Reach Knesset



We are proud to share that two women from the Shoharim network are new Members of Knesset, advocating for and working towards the Common Good at the highest levels.

Tehila Friedman is a Religious Zionist and self-described religious feminist, who entered the Knesset with Benny Gantz's "Blue and White" Party. Tehila was the director of our program in the Religious Zionist community.

Iman Khatib-Yasin is a Muslim, Arab citizen of Israel, and also a self-described religious feminist, who entered the Knesset with the Islamist Ra'am Party. Iman is the first woman to represent the Southern Islamic Movement in the Knesset, and is the first woman to wear a hijab in the Knesset. Iman was a participant in our 120 Program for Multicultural National Political Leadership.

These two women are exemplars of the society we hope to build from Shaharit – both hold strong to their communal identities while still advocating for change and working to build solidarity across sectoral lines. In her first interview as a member of Knesset, Iman said "I came to seek Common Good."

We wish Tehila and Iman strength and determination in their work.

Religious Zionist Diaspora Conference Inspired by Shaharit



Makor Rishon, the central newspaper of the Religious Zionist community, recently held its first ever International Diaspora Conference. The newspaper's CEO, Moriya Shalom, was a participant in Shaharit's Religious Zionist program, and said the event came out of her

experience traveling to the US with Shaharit.

This event was significant as the Religious Zionist community has traditionally seen the land of Israel as “the sole place where Israel and Judaism can live and thrive.” The community has also historically been widely opposed to Jewish pluralism – only a minority of Religious Zionists “support funding for Reform of Conservative congregations and rabbis.” As such, this event – which embraced engagement outside of the community's walls without sacrificing any of its core beliefs - was surprising and inspiring.

One event during the conference raised particular controversy in the Religious Zionist community – a panel discussion with a female Reform rabbi.

Another Shaharit program participant, Shlomo Piotrkowski – journalist for the Israeli daily news outlets BaSheva, Channel 7, and Yedioth Ahronoth, and resident of the settlement of Beit-El – wrote a response in Makor Rishon defending the panel. Shlomo wrote:

“For many years, I have also shied away from public meetings of Orthodox rabbis with Reform and Conservative rabbis. One of the things that I learned the last time I was in the United States, as part of a delegation with the Shaharit Institute, is the price of shying away from such meetings.”

Read more on the event and its response on the Times of Israel [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars - English, Arabic, and Hebrew



الإبداع في السياسة

منتدى سحرية يُحاوّر نواب المشتركة حول العمل البرلماني، التحديات، البرامج والعلاقة مع الجمهور المشاركة متاحة للجمهور الواسع في الساعة الثامنة مساءً من أيام الأحد في شهر تموز وأب 2020 بواسطة تطبيق الزوم.

يُحاوّر

النائب أحمد عوده	د. منصور عباس	إيمان خطيب ياسين	النائب د. أحمد الطيبي	نظير مجلي
رئيس القائمة المشتركة 9/8/2020	نائب رئيس الكنيست، رئيس القائمة العربية الموحدة، نائب رئيس الحزب الإسلامي 26/7/2020	ناشطة اجتماعية وسياسية عضو كنيست في القائمة المشتركة 19/7/2020	رئيس كتلة القائمة المشتركة وعضو لجنة المالية في الكنيست ورئيس الحزب العربي للتغيير 12/7/2020	كاتب وإعلامي وممثل بحث رفيع في شذيرت

إدارة اللقاء : زيناب أبو سويد، عضو مجلس الكنيست-طياب، حجازة وعضو إدارة سحرية

Zoom has revealed itself to be an invaluable tool in connecting populations across geographic distances – Covid-19 or not. Thus far, we have held eleven webinars in Hebrew and Arabic - on topics ranging from the effects of Covid-19 on Haredi society, to the Arab sector's

response to a potential unity government, to religious views on peacebuilding – reaching thousands of viewers.

We are now continuing our work to connect and educate people across Israel and the ocean through this new virtual tool.

In the coming weeks we will publish a **series of English-language online conversations with the Times of Israel**, titled “Responsible for One Another: Understanding Israel’s diverse groups and building bridges between them.” In this webinar series, we will explore the worldviews, histories, and narratives of Israel’s many identity groups, and learn from diverse activists working to build a new social partnership among all Israelis.

We are also launching a series of Arabic-language online conversations with Arab-Israeli politicians – the first is on July 12th.

Please email jake@shaharit.org.il with any questions about webinars, or to schedule a webinar in your community.