

# Parents Circle – Families Forum

## Bereaved Families Supporting Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance

### Critical Voices: Women's Group Program

#### Interim Report for January-June 2026

This year, 2026, commenced with extreme challenges to peace-building grassroots work. Enhanced settlers' attacks, restricted movement and deepening despair and anti-normalization sentiments in Palestine, and the current Israeli socio-political climate marked by a growing hostility toward civil society organizations working outside the dominant nationalist narrative, were further compounded by the war in Iran, that has dangerously affected both Palestinians and Israelis and the region as a whole. Prioritizing Palestinian and Israeli women members' safety, PCFF is upholding its conviction, amplifying the authoritative voices of bereaved women, showing that peace is both necessary and viable.

**Between January-June 2026, PCFF achieved the following milestones in the Critical Voices Programme:**

#### Stream 1: Personal & Group Strengthening

**Palestinian Uni-national 2-Days Resilience Seminar (February, 2026)** Building on lessons learned from the seminar in 2025, **40 Palestinian bereaved women, new and veteran members of PCFF met to strengthen their emotional resilience** in coping with loss and trauma and build a supportive healing community. The group held discussions and conducted exercises, in small groups and in plenary sessions covering themes such as self-care as a foundation for leadership; emotional regulation under pressure; leadership through presence, listening, and boundaries; and women's strength without self-sacrifice.

**Israeli Uni-national Community-Building (March & June, 2026)** In March, the outbreak of war with Iran hindered on the planned Israeli Women's Group planned activity. Considering its importance, it was decided to hold the meeting on-line (Zoom) where **17 Israeli women members** of PCFF were introduced to the "Healing Stories" method, that harnesses the therapeutic power of internal narrative to foster connections. In mid-June, **29 new and veteran Israeli women members of PCFF met for a full-day programme**. The veteran women members shared with the group the 20-year history of the PCFF women's group and discussed what actions they wish to endeavor at this time. The second part of the day centered on a screening of the Israeli feature Oxygen and a discussion with director Netalie Braun. The film portrays an Israeli mother's journey with relation to her son's army service. The film and discussion were extremely difficult for the women but also very important for their own journeys and their growth within the framework of PCFF.



#### Stream 2: Capacity Building

**In its first joint meeting for over six months**, the PCFF women's group chose to discuss the responsibility and the unique role that they are mandated to play in shaping the future in Palestinian-Israeli relations. The meeting was held in June, in PCFF offices in Beit Jala with **32 women (15 IL ; 17 Pal) and was led by 2 professional facilitators**. The meeting focused on the question of how to educate children and grandchildren toward dialog and getting to know the other side while living in a violent and opposing environment. Both in plenary and in smaller uni-national breakout groups, the women shared their experiences and struggles with resistance from their own societies and families and discussed ways to mediate to the communities in which they live - to children, family members, friends and colleagues - their choice in peace.

#### Stream 3: Public Presence

A total of 49 Dialogue Meetings were facilitated by at least one PCFF female member reaching a total of 1,887 Israeli participants, predominantly youth and young adults. Evaluation of these meetings revealed: **89% reported an increase in their belief in the importance of dialogue** and getting to know other side; and **96% said they will tell others** about their experience, demonstrating the ripple effect of PCFF's personal impact. In addition, 26 Dialogue Meetings were conducted in English with women speakers, for more than 4000 participants - students, general public, and diplomats from Germany, Italy, UK, USA, and Australia.



The annual webinar for International Women's Day, [Voices of Pain and Hope](#), featured women from Gaza and from Israel and attracted an audience of 430 participants from Israel, Palestine and the world; In January and February, to step-up efforts to battle the Israeli Ministry of Education's ban of PCFF from entering high-schools, PCFF bereaved Israeli women facilitators were paramount in the **"We Will Not Give Up on Peace Education"** campaign. A Video of [Liora Eilon in the Knesset](#) reached - 16,600 views and a subsequent [Radio interview with Liora](#) achieved 73 shares. A [Reel of Mor Yinon](#) got 94.5k views. This year, the [Joint Memorial Day Ceremony](#) featured a strong female voice, with **keynote addresses by two Israeli and one Palestinian bereaved PCFF women members**; In the [People's Peace Summit](#) that was produced by "It's Time" coalition, PCFF members of the women's group took on **leading roles, including in panels, facilitation of discussions and on stage in the main event**. Post-conference PCFF published the **"This is Necessary"** session that opened the Summit's main event, with video of [Tal Kfir Schor](#) and a video of [Bushra Awad](#) that reached 374k Views on TikTok. Four PCFF Israeli women members were featured in "Sorry for Asking" production of a leading platform that amplifies Israeli organizations promoting peace and democratic values. The most successful reel produced was [Elana Kaminka's](#) with 15k views. **In total, 52 different types of content (posts + articles) were published during this reporting period** that centre on the shared work of bereaved Israeli and Palestinian women.



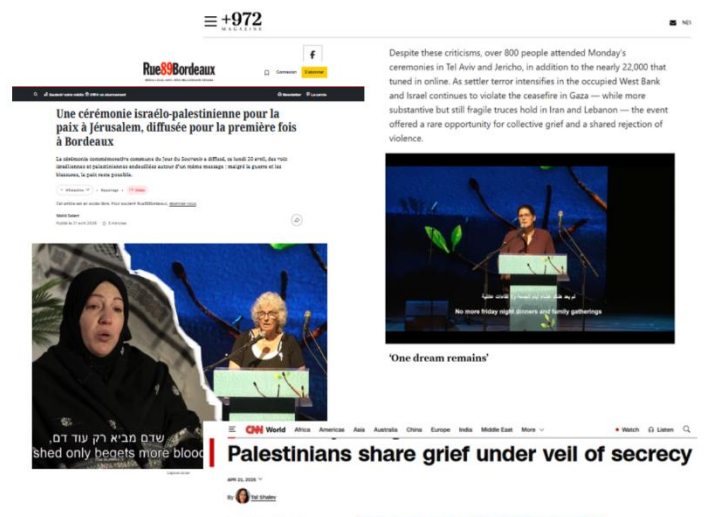
**Israeli Women's Group** reviewing the impressive projects implemented over 20 years of activity.



**Palestinian Women's Group**; each woman represents a unique combination of personal beliefs and different stages of grief processing and readiness to participate in peace-building.



Ikhlas, a resident of Nablus and a member of the PCFF women's group, experienced a violent raid by Israeli army forces. **Israeli and Palestinian women members posted in support and the Israeli women immediately stepped up, raising funds to help Ikhlas replace items and especially the children's toys that were destroyed.**



**Joint Memorial Day Ceremony** A total of 16 media items– articles & [interviews](#), in four languages, featured bereaved Israeli and Palestinian women members

