

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

AdvaCenter 



What Adva Center Does?



The Adva Center - a leading Israeli progressive think-and-do tank - believes that all Israelis, Jews and Arabs, women and men, high- and low- income persons deserve high-quality public education, low-cost public health services, decent affordable housing, and a robust social security system.

We also believe that an active citizenry is crucial to democracy, and thereby engage in community activism and popular education programs, with an emphasis on Israel's socioeconomic periphery.

Since its establishment in 1991, Adva Center has been at the forefront of the struggle to advance equality, social justice and gender-responsive programming in Israel, by monitoring social and economic developments and working top-down and bottom-up with all groups composing Israeli society. Adva Center is led by Dr. Yuval Livnat, a legal scholar, one of the first men in legal academia to teach and write on feminism and law, and one of the first legal advocates of the transgender community in Israel, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

We engage in research and policy monitoring, advocacy, popular education and community action projects, and maintain intensive presence in new and conventional media channels.

- **Our studies of Israeli society present critical analyses** of public policy and highlight issues that are often neglected in the areas of budgets, taxation and social services – including their implications for Israeli society as a whole and for each of its major social groups.
- **Our policy-oriented reports** are used by Knesset members, government officials, civil society organizations, academia, students and activists all over the country to advance egalitarian policies.
- **Our research and findings** are translated into straightforward graphic language accessible to all.
- **Our community action and popular education projects** operate in dozens of underserved localities countrywide with hundreds of women and men of all groups composing Israeli society.

As 2023 opens, we at Adva Center are particularly worried about the erosion of democratic values and the strengthening of extreme neo-liberal values in Israel. As we did in 2022, we will continue to promote equal rights and opportunities among all Israeli citizens under the rule of law, protect trade unions and workers' rights, and work to narrow socioeconomic gaps.

Ripples





Dr. Valeria Seigelshifer, gender projects coordinator at Adva Center with MK Aida Tuma Suliman, formerly the head of the Knesset's committee on gender equality and women's status



Launch of "Gender Equal Municipality" following the completion of a gender mainstreaming course and process in Emek Yizrael Regional Council

Public Policy Analysis



Israel: A Social Report - 2022

Shlomo Swirski, Etti Konor Attias, Barbara Swirski, Dr. Shani Bar On Mamman, Yaron Hoffmann Dishon, Aviv Lieberman. May 2022

Employment of Ultra-Orthodox Women in Israel

Noga Dagan Buzaglo, Dr. Valeria Seigelshifer, Barbara Swirski, Dr. Yael Hasson. February 2022

Universal Housing – Is It an Option for Israel? Lessons from the Viennese Universal Housing Policy

Yaron Hoffmann Dishon. April 2022

Still in The Dark: An Analysis of the Implementation of the Reporting Requirements about Gender Wage Gaps

Hadas Ben Eliyahu and Dr. Yael Hasson. September 2022

Enabling a Just Transition: Protecting Workers through the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Noga Dagan Buzaglo and Max Grubman. November 2022

Representation of Ethiopian Israelis in the Public Service

Adva Center. August 2022

Criminal Records of Ethiopian Israelis 2018-2020: Analysis of Israeli Police Data

Adva Center, Association of Ethiopian Jews (AEJ), The Clinical Legal Education Center of Hebrew University. December 2022

Adva Advocacy and Policy Advancement:

Decision to change the format for Israeli private sector reports on gender wage gaps, and to appoint a public body to collect and analyze data, taken by the Knesset Committee on Gender Equality.

This following an Adva Center's analysis of the implementation of the reporting requirements concerning gender wage gaps by 40 large companies, conducted in cooperation with Van Leer Institute and the Israel Women's Network. The analysis revealed that current requirements enable employers to blur and even conceal existing disparities. Currently, the Open Government Partnership is working on development of a digital platform for reporting, based on our recommendations. In addition, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner held a roundtable meeting with employers, and an amendment is being planned.

An open call inviting high-tech companies to apply to a unique program to increase gender equality in the sector and provide them with the requisite tools to generate change was issued by the Innovation, Science and Technology Ministry along with the Ministry for Social Equality, following Adva Center's publication of a report and guide for increasing women's representation in the STEM sector (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

NIS 1.4M allocated to the Central Bureau of Statistics for collection of gender/ethnic data and the LGBTQ community, following several meetings held on this matter with the participation of Adva's experts.

A committee on gender mainstreaming was established by the Transportation Ministry following close to a decade of work on gender-responsive transportation on the national and local levels. (The first report on the subject was published by Adva in 2011).

Recommendations for changes in the eligibility criteria for public housing devised by Adva Center, the Forum for Public Housing and others, were presented to a special committee of the Ministry of Housing.

Papers about the need for a just transition to a low carbon economy and about sustainable public housing were presented to the President's Climate Forum.

Findings and analysis from Adva's research about food insecurity among seniors in Israel were presented to the Minister of Social Services and MKs at a meeting of the MAZON coalition of food security organizations.

The sum of NIS 100,000 was allotted by the Sports and Culture Ministry for the establishment of a gender-disaggregated database for all supported organizations. This following the publication of Adva's "The Celluloid Ceiling" -- about gender disparities in the Israeli film industry.

Commitment of the Knesset Committee on Gender Equality to monitor gender gaps in the Israeli film industry, in the wake of Adva's report, "The Celluloid Ceiling."

Dozens of senior executives in and out of government were trained in gender mainstreaming: Social Services Ministry staff (headquarters and districts), Advisors on Women's Status in the Office of the Prime Minister, and directors of CSOs.

Adva's recommendations regarding universal public housing were incorporated into the platforms of the Meretz and Labor parties.



Knesset Committee discussion of
"Celluloid Ceiling" report

New Topic:

Climate Change and Inequality



In Israel, research about the climate crisis is often done by environmental organizations, which tend to heed little attention to the socioeconomic implications of climate mitigation and resilience policies. This, despite the heavy cost paid (in the absence of policy changes) by underserved populations. Moreover, vulnerability to the implications of the crisis is largely determined by factors such as gender and ethnicity.

Over the past year, Adva Center turned its attention to the implications of the climate crisis on underserved populations and on socioeconomic disparities. In this context, we published “Enabling a Just Transition: Protecting Workers through the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy,” to be followed by additional reports and position papers about climate mitigation and resilience policies that will prevent a widening of the gaps – and possibly narrow them.

In the Pipeline:

- Social housing: a model for green standards in new buildings.
- The social-environmental necessity of a shorter workweek.

New researcher:



Max Grubman focuses on environmental and political-economic issues. Max holds an MA in philosophy and the history of science. He is an activist working to make political knowhow accessible to more and more audiences.



Adva Center's researcher, Max Grubman, leading a round table discussion held as part of the President's Forum on the Climate Crisis



Zoom-In:

Arab Society

A COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT ABOUT THE
GENDERED IMPACT OF
THE HOUSING CRISIS
ON WOMEN IN GENERAL
AND ARAB WOMEN IN
PARTICULAR, IS IN THE
PIPELINE.

It is to be based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the National Insurance Institute and other relevant agencies, as well as a review of pertinent literature. The report will highlight the unique challenges Arab women face in the housing arena vis-à-vis ownership, eligibility for public housing and/or rent subsidies, the situation of divorced women and women suffering from domestic violence. The report will fill the lacuna in data about this issue and be translated into Arabic.

We are also examining aspects of the financial exclusion of members of Arab society in Israel, as well as the lacuna in information about food insecurity in unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev (with the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality).

New researcher:



Dr. Fahima Abbas is a geographer dealing with the Arab middle-class in Israel. Her post doctorate from the Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace dealt with the East Jerusalem middle-class's participation in the Israeli economy.



Fortifying the Progressive Camp:

The results of the recent elections, and the rise of ultra nationalist, neoliberal forces have landed a blow to the progressive camp. The Adva Center and like-minded organizations are pooling resources, leveraging expertise and scaling up their efforts to shift the pendulum and keep progressive discourse alive.

The Adva Center was the first to identify the need!

In May 2022, well ahead of the establishment of the new government (November 2022), we published a "Call for Proposals" inviting CSOs to submit to Adva a request for assistance in data collection, analysis and the presentation of evidence-based policy recommendations.

The response was overwhelming: over 65 applications were submitted within a fortnight, proving that Adva has identified a genuine, unmet need of civil society. After a thorough review of the applications, it was decided to examine the impact of the Insolvency and Economic Rehabilitation Law, 2018 ("New Insolvency Law") on debtors' ability to recover and avoid falling into poverty, for the "Fresh Start" organization, and in collaboration with the Hebrew University's legal Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Population Groups.

In the coming years, we will continue to provide the progressive camp with data and analysis for independent and joint advocacy, litigation and awareness-raising campaigns.

Local Government:

The Adva Center's work on the central government level is complemented with a "zoom in" on municipal policies – bottom-up and top-down - training of senior duty bearers, gender audits of municipal budgets, and community action projects with residents and activists:

An Adva Center-led gender-sensitive strategic plan for transportation devised and implemented in **Tel Aviv-Jaffa**, was presented to the Ministry of Transportation, which subsequently established a committee for gender mainstreaming transportation on the national and local levels.

Gender-sensitive strategic municipal plans were designed by Adva Center for the **Hof HaCarmel and Emek Yizrael** Regional Councils.

Adva trained department heads and deputies from three (3) local authorities, and audits were made of the budgets of these authorities.

In collaboration with WePower, dozens of aspiring women politicians, activists, and lay women were trained in gender mainstreaming and provided with tools for effective advocacy and political engagement in five municipalities (**Ma'alot Tarshiha, Beit Jann, Haifa, Ashdod and Rehovot**).



Beit Jann
Picture: Heba Slalha

Coalitions and Alliances:

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) – Dr. Yael Hasson, our Gender Program Director, joined the international gender taskforce to work on wage gaps and to develop a digital platform for collecting and analyzing private sector reports on women’s representation.

Shatil and Heschel Center – partners in joint policy-oriented research about the impact of climate policies on the weakest sectors of society.

IWN and Yoda’at Center at Van Leer Institute – work on gender wage gaps in the public sector.

Kav LaOved – study of the impact of a reform in the employment procedures for Palestinian workers.

Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality – examination of the unaddressed issue of food insecurity in Bedouin society in unrecognized villages in the Negev.

MINIMUM 40 – a joint campaign with Omdim BeYahad and others to raise the minimum hourly wage to ILS 40.

Forum for Public Housing – work on a community action project for women

suffering from lack of adequate, stable housing in Haifa.

The Association of Ethiopian Jews – analysis of two sets of data, obtained from the Police and the Civil Service Commission, on criminal proceedings against Ethiopian Jews and on representation of the Ethiopian-Jewish community in the Civil Service.



Adva Center's gender experts, Dr. Yael Hasson and Dr. Valeria Seigelshifer, in the launch event for the "Equal Municipality" project in Tel Aviv, with colleagues and the gender-equality work team of the municipality.

Popular Education

Adva's lectures and workshops on Israeli society educated thousands of Israelis - staffs of government offices, local authorities and civil society organizations, cadets in public service leadership-development programs; community activists; student programs; pre-army preparatory programs and others -- about the issues that most impact their lives and livelihoods, motivating them to take an active part in the shaping of local, regional and national policies.

In 2022

We conducted 57 lectures and workshops

Including 20 lectures to IDF preparatory programs and Haredi and Arab public service leadership programs, marking our emphasis on reaching new audiences.



Course for municipal officials

Adva Center in the Media

In 2022

154 items in conventional media channels in
Hebrew, English, Arabic and Russian:

[] 50 in print

[] 89 in online news websites

[] 15 on TV and Radio

Most featured topics:


Gender – 47 items

Housing – 30 items

Adva Center in the Social Media

FACEBOOK

 **16,000+** followers

 **70** posts published

 **1,000,000 +** views

 **250** per post shares,
likes, comments

The posts published on our [Facebook page](#) present different aspects of socioeconomic policy, data and critical commentary regarding national policy and budgets in a straightforward, visual manner accessible to all.

TWITTER

In 2022, [we twitted](#) links and short commentaries in Hebrew and English that reached 37,000 people.

NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter in Hebrew reached some 2,800 subscribers.

[Sign up to English Newsletter](#)

Organizational Development:

Four new women were elected to join our Board of Directors, each bringing a unique expertise and perspective to the organization:

Dr. Maisalon Dallashi: Researcher, author and social activist

Maisalon's dissertation deals with the implications of the national-religious and economic separation between schools on the students' future. She holds a BA in Sociology and Gender and an MA in Sociology. She is a board member of +972 Organization and member of the Education Committee in the Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel. She was a partner in the "Representation of the Arabic Language in the Israeli Academic Sphere" and in the launch of the "Maktub" series of the Van Leer Institute.

Dr. Hedva Eyal: A medical and policy anthropologist

Hedva's research focuses on the links between science, medicine and state, gender and fertility technologies. Her dissertation dealt with the policy of human subject research in Israel and included an ethnographic and historical analysis. Currently she serves as a post doctorate fellow at Ben Gurion University, working on feminist archives as a source of knowledge about violence. Hedva is the co-founder and the former manager of "Women and Medical Technologies" project of Isha L'Isha and a partner in the "Gun on the Kitchen Table" program.

Dr. Towibah Mjdoob: Researcher with a PhD from the Sociology and Anthropology Department of Tel Aviv University

Towibah's dissertation dealt with the experience of late singlehood among men and women from Palestinian society. Currently she is a post doctorate fellow at Ben Gurion University's Education Department. Together with Dr. Assaf Meshulam, she is researching Arab Palestinian parents' school choice in Israel. Towibah focuses on Palestinian society; education, culture, gender and singlehood; racism and inequality.

Dr. Gili Tamir: A forensic social worker and a media professional

She lectures at the schools of social work at Tel Aviv University and The Hebrew University and hosts a daily radio program focused on accessing legal rights.



Dr. Yuval Livnat and Yaron Hoffmann
Dishon with Mr. Erik Ullenhag
Ambassador of Sweden to Israel

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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Tel Aviv- Yaffo Municipality
U.S-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
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