

AdvaCenter



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



The Adva Center

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 socio-economic periphery.

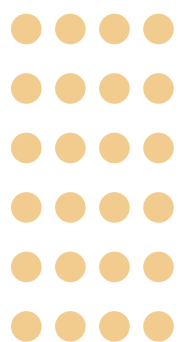
Since its establishment in 1991, Adva Center has been at the forefront of the struggle to advance equality, social justice and gender-responsive programming in Israel, monitoring social and economic developments and working top-down and bottom-up with all groups composing Israeli society.

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, as well as of migrant workers and asylum seekers.



At Adva

We engage in research and policy monitoring, advocacy, popular education and community action. We also maintain intensive presence in new and conventional media channels. In addition, we assist other organizations which advocate for human rights and social change to gather data and draft policy recommendations.

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 and with hundreds of women and men of all groups composing Israeli society.



Adva's Etti Konor-Attias lectures on the state budget for a program for young people



Adva's Yaron Hoffmann-Dishon is interviewed about housing by the public television channel

7/10



The brutal October 7th attack on Israeli citizens and the ensuing war tragically affect Israeli society in numerous ways. We at Adva Center have turned our attention and applied our research expertise to the most pressing issues on the public agenda.

As the threat to Israeli society has not diminished, we also remain committed to defending democratic values, equality and social justice, and to providing the social democratic camp with the data and analysis required to oppose anti-democratic and neo-liberal policies.

Public Policy Analysis on THE BUDGET

State Budget 2023 – a series of reports and policy papers analyzing what the budget augurs for, among others: women, adequate housing, the public health system, mental health services, and transportation.

Budget Arrangements Law 2023 – a series of reports and policy papers analyzing the budgets for vocational education, labor unions, women, social services, and more.

Additional Reports:

Public Housing and the Climate Crisis.

Max Grubman, Riki Cohen Benlulu, Lital Biton. January 2023

Israel's Wealth Fund.

Dr. Yuval Livnat. February 2023.

Labor Unions over the Last Decade.

Dr. Shani Bar On Maman, Dr. Yuval Livnat. February 2023

Financial Inclusion of Arab Israelis.

Barbara Swirski. March 2023

A Gender Analysis of the Sports Budget.

Adva Center and Athena-The Center for Promoting Women's Sports in Israel. March 2023

Nutritional Insecurity among the Elderly.

Etty Konor Attias. April 2023

The Housing Crisis through a Gender Lens.

Dr. Yael Hasson, Yaron Hoffman Dishon, Tehila Sharabi. May 2023

Women in High Tech. Adva Center and The Council for The Advancement of Women in High Tech. July 2023

The "Big Bang" of Social Inequality in Israel. Dr. Shlomo Swirski. July 2023

Out of Pocket Health Expenses in Israel and OECD. Dr. Shlomo Swirski, Etty Konor Attias, Dr. Michal Levinski, Barbara Swirski. August 2023

The Judicial Reform and the State Budget. Dr. Shlomo Swirski, Etty Konor Attias. September 2023

Nutritional Insecurity among the Bedouin Population of the Unrecognized Villages. Dr. Shani Bar On Maman and The Negev Coexistence Forum. September 2023

Advocacy, Policy Advancement and Coalitions:

With Kav LaOved – the impact of a reform on the employment of Palestinian workers. Two-year policy-oriented research involving a survey of Palestinian workers as well as interviews.

With the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality – the unaddressed issue of food insecurity in Bedouin society in “unrecognized” villages in the Negev. Two-year policy-oriented research involving both a survey and interviews

With Itach-Ma’aki and Shatil – three-year training project for Jewish and Arab CSOs, designed to increase their monitoring and advocacy capabilities. This to encourage gender-sensitive policy making at the local and national levels in Israel, with a specific focus on the needs, concerns and perspectives of Arab women.

For the Inter Agency Task Force for Israeli Arab Issues (IATF) -- a guide to the financial inclusion of Arab Israelis. Analysis of Arab Israelis’ access to business credit, mapping of different instruments offered by actors outside of the banking system.

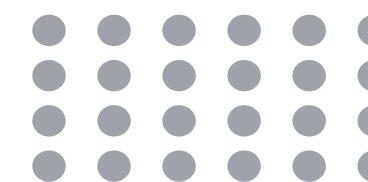
With the Forum for Public Housing, university legal clinics, social advocacy organizations and the Haifa municipal welfare department-- research and community action to advance universal public housing in Haifa.

For the Jewish Funders Network (JFN) – a guide to philanthropy and philanthropic trends through a gender lens.

For the Ministry for the Advancement of Women – a gender analysis of projects and budgets across six different governmental units.

Ripples:

The guide to the financial inclusion of Arab Israelis published (in cooperation with IATF) is being used by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in their negotiations with Bank Leumi to finetune the latter’s strategy to support under-represented populations through lending to small and medium-sized enterprises.



Infrastructure for the Progressive Camp:

A three-year grant from the EU has positioned Adva Center as an infrastructure organization with the ability to strengthen progressive CSOs.

In the first year, we will be collaborating with the ASSAF organization in monitoring a Ministry of Welfare reform and in advocating for the expansion of welfare and rehabilitation services to asylum seekers with disabilities.

In the coming years, Adva Center's monitoring and research expertise is to be put at the service of four (4) additional CSOs.

Local Government:

Adva Center's work at 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 the operation of community action projects with residents and activists:

In the framework of a joint project with WePower, Adva's researchers gave a series of lectures (in Hebrew and in Arabic) to aspiring women politicians in the following communities: Menashe Regional Council, Hadera, Eshkol Regional Council, Netanya, Beit Shemesh, Drom Hasharon Regional Council, Umm el Fahm, Nof Hagalil and Ramat Gan. This, to train and instill tools for gender-sensitive budgeting

ahead of the municipal elections. In addition, lectures and workshops on gender mainstreaming of local government were presented to department heads and deputies at these communities: Eilat, Ashdod, Yahud-Monoson, Dir el Assad and Majdal Shams.

Following the gender analysis of the sports budgets of the Hof HaCarmel Regional Council, Adva's gender team is now assisting the municipality to develop an overall strategic plan to promote gender equality.

Ripples:

The research-community action project in Haifa resulted in a conference on the issue of public housing in Kiryat Bialik, attended by over 50 public housing residents, many of them Ethiopian-Israelis, the mayor and MK Naama Lazimi.

Subsequently, the municipality nominated one of the leading local activists to help residents exercise their rights.



Adva's Mira Oppenheim
lectures on gender budgeting
in Hadera

ISRAEL AT WAR:

The brutal attack on Israeli citizens on October 7th and the ensuing war dramatically affects Israeli society in numerous ways.

Adva published around twenty position papers, budget analyses and reports about the socioeconomic implications of the war on the weakest members of society, including the disparate impact on women's employment, compared to that of men (English, Hebrew), the implications of the war on women who were let go following the rise in women's retirement age (Hebrew), the exclusion of women from decision making bodies in time of war (Hebrew), the consequences of the arming of the Israeli civilian population on women (Hebrew, English), the partnership of Arab men and women in the medical professions (Hebrew, English, Arabic), and more ([see here](#)).

Adva policy recommendations received significant media attention, and some were presented in Knesset committees.

Our policy recommendation to add a significant number of safe rooms through urban renewal projects in peripheral localities, was adopted by the Home Front Command.

Zoom-In:

WOMEN AT WAR



The war affects Israeli men and women differently. Some women are on the front lines, but most are back at the home front, where they play a pivotal role as primary caretakers of children and the elderly, and in projects designed to begin the process of healing for fractured communities. Women constitute the majority of essential workers on emergency response teams, and in social, health and educational services. They are often the first to bear the brunt of surges in domestic abuse that occur during times of crisis. It is well documented that women experience higher rates of PTSD compared to men following triggering events.

On the “day after,” women will be the ones who pick up the pieces, care for the wounded, the bereaved, and the traumatized. To ensure that public services are responsive to their needs, it is crucial to include women in decision-making processes, amplify their voices and ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed.

Adva Center is located at a distinctive crossroad: it has been a longstanding partner to a network of women's organizations, while simultaneously acting as an advisor to the Ministry for the Advancement of Women.

This unique dual position enables us to facilitate and stimulate a constructive dialogue between the third sector (civil society organizations) and the government, as well as to advance gender-sensitive policies and programs.

Adva's collaboration with the Ministry for the Advancement of Women initially focused on conducting gender-based analyses of projects and budgets across six different governmental units. With the onset of the war, the original project was adapted: Adva Center would provide guidance to the Ministry so as to guarantee that all ministries and agencies take into account the unique concerns and needs of women.

Similarly, Adva's collaboration with the Ministry of Health has resulted in the endorsement of standardized gender-specific medical protocol across all national healthcare providers, taking into account women's experiences on October

7th and thereafter and their possible medical implications.

Together with a coalition of women's organizations, Adva created a comprehensive report on the direct impact of the war on women, and especially minority women. It was presented to the Socio-Economic Cabinet. The report included a demand that the government develop programs to address women's specific needs in regard to domestic violence, employment, health, and childcare.

Adva also joined a call demanding that women be included in the hostage negotiations team.

Adva's collaboration with the Ministry for the Advancement of Women has broadened the dialogue among pertinent authorities regarding the influence of gun distribution on women.

Presently, we are engaged in developing a comprehensive database on the extent of violence against women and its diverse manifestations. Furthermore, we are in the process of establishing a "bank" of women experts spanning diverse disciplines. These experts will be available to assist the Ministry on an ad-hoc basis in times of crisis.

ZOOM-IN:

SHARED DESTINY WITH ARAB ISRAELIS

The shared destiny of the Jewish and Arab populations in Israel, the joint civil challenges and common interests – in normal times as in war -- are being examined and highlighted by Adva researchers Dr. Miri Endeweld Sabag and Dr. Fahima Abbas. Focus is on the pivotal role of Arab citizens in the healthcare system, educational institutions and more.

An examination of the differential implications of the housing crisis on Arab women in Israel, with a specific focus on the unique set of needs and challenges of divorced Arab women, has just been completed. The second paper in the planned series of publications about Arab women in Israel will

focus on the hurdles related to commuting. This analysis will examine employment opportunities for Arab women in or near their homes, the availability and suitability of public transportation, childcare options and more.

Ripples:

Adva has successfully advocated for an increase in the accessibility of health services, including family health centers (Tipot Halav), to Bedouin mothers residing in “unrecognized” villages in the Negev.

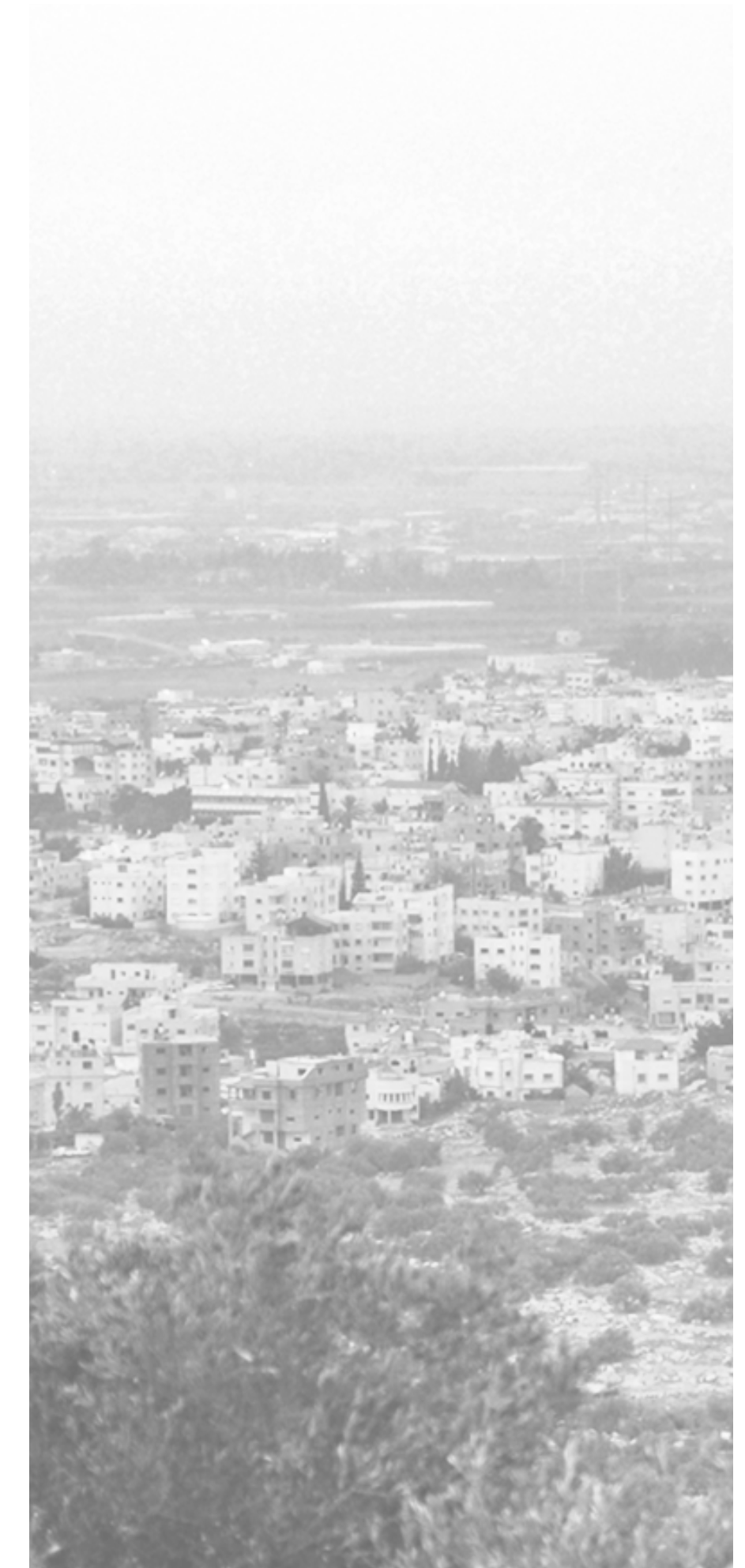


Photo: Kays Jabara, from the wikipiki website

Popular Education

Adva's lectures and workshops on Israeli society have educated thousands of Israelis -- staff members of central government offices, local authorities and civil society organization; 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 2023 we conducted

65 lectures and workshops, including
20 lectures to young people in IDF preparatory programs, students and cadets and a series of sessions with aspiring women politicians.

Adva Center in the Media

In 2023

165 items in conventional media channels
in Hebrew, English, Arabic and Russian;

28 Items in print

118 items in online news websites

19 items on TV and Radio

Most featured topics:

The war – 60 items

The budget – 26 items



Adva's Shani Bar-On in an interview about the desolation of the towns in the Gaza envelope

Adva Center in the Social Media

FACEBOOK

♥ 16,500+ followers

📄 74 posts published

👁 50,000 – 200,000 views per post

Some of the posts – particularly those dealing with the socioeconomic implications of the war – were translated to English and posted on our [English Facebook page](#).

NEWSLETTER

Adva's monthly newsletter in Hebrew went to some 2,800 subscribers.

Organizational Development:

Three experts joined us,
each bringing unique
expertise and perspective
to the organization:



Dr. Miri Endeweld Sabag

An expert in socioeconomic research. Dr. Endeweld holds a PhD from the Department of Labor Studies at Tel Aviv University. Her academic research focused on wage and career mobility in the labor market. Before joining Adva Center, she served as the head of the economic research division of the National Insurance Institute (NII).



Dr. Baka Mawassi

Adva Center's new gender projects coordinator, Dr. Mawassi, holds a PhD in social work and a master's degree in public policy from Tel Aviv University. In the past, Dr. Mawassi served as the head of the domestic violence unit and the manager of the gender equality division in Baqa al-Gharbiyye.



Tehila Sharabi

New Adva Center researcher, Ms Sharabi, holds a BA in sociology and gender from Tel Aviv University. At Adva Center, she engages in qualitative and quantitative research in the fields of gender and structural/ethnic inequality. Tehila was formerly a senior coordinator of higher education at the Central Bureau of Statistics.

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